2,299 pass CPA exams; St. Louis University student is No. 1. See complete results at www.inquirer.net

BUSINESS / B1

Stocks plunge 4%; peso rallies to 44.115:$1

METRO / A17

Rizal Gov. Ynares gives MMDA until Thursday to find new dump for Metro Manila garbage

SPORTS / A23

Red Sox take AL pennant, advance to World Series

Help country's small businesses: Buy local

By TJ Burgonio

BUY LOCAL. HELP THE POOR GET JOBS. Obey traffic rules. Ask for receipts.

These simple tips, if applied to everyday life, could help sustain small and medium enterprises and bring about a shift from a profit-driven to a socially oriented econo-

HELP/ A4

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Tuesday, October 23, 2007 ★★★ 7 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 317 P18 website: www.inquirer.net

Supreme Court rules that a he can't be a she

By Leila B. Salaverria

HE WAS BORN ROMMEL SILVERIO BUT decided to undergo sex reassignment surgery five years ago in Bangkok, Thailand.

Today, 45-year-old Silverio, who prefers to be called Mely, looks every inch a woman

SUPREME/ A15

Erap seeks GMA pardon

Appeal of conviction withdrawn; President elated

ESTRADA: Full, free and unconditional pardon

By Jocelyn R. Uy and Michael Lim Ubac

CITING "THE HIGHEST NATIONAL INTEREST," CONVICTed plunderer and former President Joseph Estrada yesterday asked President Macapagal-Arroyo for "full, free and unconditional pardon" as he withdrew his appeal of the Sandiganbayan's verdict last month.

The move elated Ms Arroyo, who immediately ordered the Department of Justice to "make the necessary recommendations" to her as soon as possible, acting Justice Secretary Agnes Devanadera told reporters in Malacañang.

But Devanadera declined to comment on whether Ms Arroyo would pardon the ousted leader.

Estrada, who received a life sentence for illegally amassing P545 million in "jueteng" payoffs during his 30 months in power, sent a letter to Ms Arroyo through his lawyer, Devanadera said.

"In the highest national interest, to

ERAP SEEKS/ A9

Makati gov't orders safety inspection of Glorietta

A CANDLE shines on Ceasar Niño Vidamo, a computer programmer, killed in the Glorietta 2 blast on Friday, together with best friends Jee Ann de Gracia and Maureen de Leon seen at right in happier times. De Leon, also a computer programmer just got a raise and was out celebrating with her friends. RYAN LIM EDWIN BACASMAS

By DJ Yap and Alcuin Papa

MAKATI CITY YESTERDAY ORdered the temporary shutdown of the Glorietta shopping complex to allow engineers to determine if the building remained safe following Friday's explosion that police investigation so far showed may have been caused by a methane gas leak.

"It's only a preventive closure order," Vice Mayor Ernesto Mercado told reporters. He said this would give a 12-member team of city engineers and consultants of Ayala Land, owners of the shopping complex, enough time to inspect cracks and structural anomalies.

By late last night, Lito Anzures, political adviser to the city mayor, said that Glorietta 1, 3 and 4 would reopen today. The heavily damaged Glorietta 2, center of the explosion that left 11 dead and more than a hundred wounded, would remain closed.

Mercado, acting mayor of Makati while Mayor Jejomar Binay is in Japan to attend a scouting event, had earlier raised the possibility of a complete shutdown.

The closure was set for yesterday morning but was implemented at 8 p.m. upon Ayala Land's request.

On Sunday, a minor fire hit the kitchen of a seafood restaurant on the second floor of Glorietta 4, but authorities said it was not connected to the Glorietta 2 blast.

President Macapagal-Arroyo will meet today the National Se-

MAKATI/ A14

That Friday, cell phone seemed to keep ringing forever

By Nancy Carvajal, Julie M. Aurelio and Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

BUSINESSMAN RENIER SANtiago Tan would normally answer calls on his cell phone after two rings. That Friday, his phone seemed to keep on ringing forever.

That was when his son, Pocholo, 25, began to worry.

"I was nervous that something bad could have happened to him," the son told the INQUIRER the other day in his father's wake at St. Alphonse in Magallanes.

In the past, said Pocholo, "he would answer calls after two rings and reply by text in minutes. It never failed."

Tan was at Glorietta 3 shopping with a friend, Norlita, when he told her that he would just have coffee at Glorietta 2.

Then the blast came. A Philippine National Red Cross team found Tan's body the following day, under the wrecked escalator.

"I never thought this would happen to us. I saw this only on

THAT FRIDAY/ A14

'Kuya' tells Trillanes to put up or shut up

KAMPI SI KUYA KAY ATE!

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

SEN. ANTONIO TRILLANES IV was told by his "kuya"—Sen. Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan—to back off from accusations the Arroyo administration was behind the Glorietta mall blast without any shred of proof.

Honasan also cautioned fellow "mistah"—Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson—to go slow in demanding the resignation of National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales and wait for more concrete findings from bomb experts.

Kuya in Filipino means eldest brother. Mistah refers to graduates of the Philippine Military Academy.

Honasan, a PMA alumnus and former Army colonel, said he was not disappointed with the pace of the police investigation that centered now on whether the blast was caused by a liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) tank or RDX, a component of the military explosive C4.

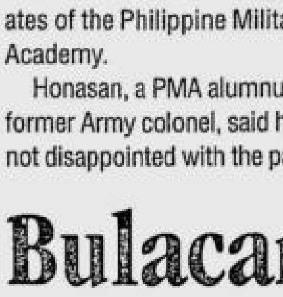
"I appreciate what they are going through as they shifted from LPG to RDX and back to the accident theory. It shows that they're moving," Honasan said in a press conference at the Senate.

He said Trillanes and Lacson were mixing speculation with politics.

KUYA TELLS/ A14

TWO foreigners arrive at the explosion site of Glorietta 2 in Makati City. Sources said at least six members of the FBI, the US Navy SEALs and the Explosive Ordinance Disposal Unit are helping out in the investigation. EDWIN BACASMAS

Bulacan gov links GMA ally to bags of money



EVARDONE: No comment as of press time last night.

MENDOZA: It's time to tell the truth. TONETTE T. OREJAS/INQUIRER CENTRAL LUZON

By Tonette Orejas and Carmela Reyes
Inquirer Central Luzon
and Alcuin Papa

MALOLOS CITY—SAYING IT WAS time to tell the truth about what happened in Malacañang, Bulacan Gov. Joselito Mendoza yesterday linked an ally of President Macapagal-Arroyo to the controversial bags of money distributed at Malacañang.

Mendoza said it was Eastern Samar Gov. Ben Evardone—who is also secretary general of the League of Provinces of the Philippines (LPP)—who told him about the money "for community projects" before a woman in white handed him two bags each containing P500,000 in a room inside Malacañang.

Interior Undersecretary Austere Panadero and former Agusan del Sur Gov. Eddie "Bong" Plaza were present in the room when he received the bags from the woman, Mendoza said.

Mendoza later gave one of the bags to Pampanga Gov. Ed Panlilio, who—like Mendoza—said he took it in the belief it was for barangay projects. Panlilio was the first governor to speak on record about the monetary handouts.

The INQUIRER tried unsuccessfully to get Evardone's comment. His staff said he was not available but would issue a statement today.

Panadero denied having anything

BULACAN/ A4

Is Ermita on way out? Palace: He's on a mission

By Michael Lim Ubac

IS EXECUTIVE SECRETARY EDuardo Ermita "on the way out"?

He is already out of the country, flying on Oct. 21 to the United States on an official mission.

At 10:04 p.m. Sunday, Malacañang issued an advisory disclosing that Ermita was on his way to New York for a weeklong "official trip ... to meet with officials of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights."

Malacañang said Ermita would "personally update UN officials on government efforts in dealing with" extrajudicial killings in the Philippines, which have claimed the lives of more than 800 activists, reli-

IS ERMITA/ A15

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Eastern Luzon will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers while Visayas and Mindanao will have mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Mostly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Mostly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Mostly Cloudy
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Mostly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Mostly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Mostly Cloudy
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Mostly Cloudy
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Mostly Cloudy

COMPILED BY: RHEA BLANCAS, PDI RESEARCH/10/22/07 SOURCE: PAGASA

EZ2

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(In exact order)

Mid-Day **SUERTRES** Evening

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MEGALOTTO 6/45

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'Witch-hunt' vs Muslim groups feared

WHAT'S INSIDE

- **'SOLID EIGHT'** to continue with bribery probe /A16
- **FIL-AM DOC** sentenced to life term in jail for patient's death /A3
- **RP 4th BIGGEST** receiver of OFW earnings, says UN /A7

A MINDANAO-BASED PARTY-list group yesterday expressed fears of a government "witch-hunt" in Muslim communities following reports that the Rajah Solaiman Revolutionary Movement (RSRM) has owned up to the Glorietta 2 blast on Friday.

Anak Mindanao (Amin) Rep. Mujiv Hataman called on the authorities to conduct a thorough probe into the blast and not just center their investigation on Islamic rebel groups.

The congressman said Amin shares the skepticism of some sectors that the RSRM was behind the explosion.

"We fear that in the haste to solve the case, it will just be attributed to extremist Islamic groups, resulting in indiscriminate arrests and justifying another crackdown, the target of which will be mostly Mindanaoans, particularly Muslims," Hataman said.

The Rajah Solaiman group, reportedly a radical group of Islam returnees, was linked to the bombing of the SupperFerry in 2004, and the Valentine's Day bus bombings in 2005.

The RSRM group allegedly claimed the recent mall bombing in a text message to a reporter of the ABS-CBN network.

Police have also expressed reservations on the reported claim by a certain "Sheik Omar" that the RSRM was responsible for the Glorietta mall blast.

The Rajah Solaiman Movement is already inactive and is unlikely to have perpetrated the explosion at the Glorietta 2, National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) chief Director Geary Barias said yesterday.

"The results of our investigation show that RSRM has been rendered inactive with the arrest (since 2002) of 12 core members, including its leaders," said Barias.

He added that one of the two remaining and known members, Ruben Omar Lavilla alias "Shiek Omar," is believed to be hiding in the Middle East. Another member Khalil Pareja alias Dino Amor, is also believed to be hiding in Central Mindanao.

Philippine National Police (PNP) Task Force Sanlahi deputy chief Senior Superintendent Ager Ontog said the RSRM's founder Hilarion "Ahmad" Santos is behind bars.

PNP Chief Director General Avelino Razon had also said that an arrested member of the RSRM told them that the voice in the telephone calls did not belong to Sheik Omar, the alleged spiritual leader of the group.

However, police stressed that they were still not ruling out the RSRM and are coordinating with international intelligence agencies to gather more information.

In March 2005, police raided an RSRM safe house in Fairview, Quezon City and seized 600,000 kilos of chemicals used to make bombs. *Norman Bordadora and Alcuin Papa, with Julie S. Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao*

THINK GLOBAL WARMING
President Macapagal-Arroyo was the guest of honor of the 1st National Conference on Climate Change Adaptation held in Legazpi City in Albay on Monday. With her at the opening rites were Vice President Noli de Castro (left) and Albay Gov. Joey Salceda. The forum discussed policy implications of climate change to local government units.

NIÑO JESUS ORBETA/INQUIRER SOUTHERN LUZON

Nograles: Lakas to side with GMA

DAVAO CITY REP. PROSPERO Nograles yesterday said "most if not all" members of the Lakas-Christian-Muslim-Democrats will choose President Macapagal-Arroyo over Speaker Jose de Venecia when the reported rift between the two party leaders makes it necessary to choose sides.

Nograles, a Lakas official in Congress and head of the House contingent to the Committee on Appointments, made the comment a day after Presidential Legal Adviser Sergio Apostol, a Lakas stalwart in Malacañang, remarked that most party members would side with the President.

"The reason for the power and strength of our political party is because President Arroyo belongs to and she supports unequivocally our party," Nograles said in a text message to the INQUIRER.

"But when we are made to form two lines between our leaders, then most if not all of the party members will probably form toward the President's line," he added.

Nograles last week was reported in some newspapers as one being touted by those who want De Venecia removed as a possible replacement.

He has since said that a leadership change in the House would only happen if De Venecia would allow it.

Nograles said the polarization of Lakas is one scenario party leaders are already trying to prevent.

"(Having to choose sides) is the worst case scenario for our political party and we will move heaven and earth to prevent this nightmare of an occurrence," Nograles said.

"I am still very confident that this 'form two lines' will never ever happen to us," he added. *Norman Bordadora*

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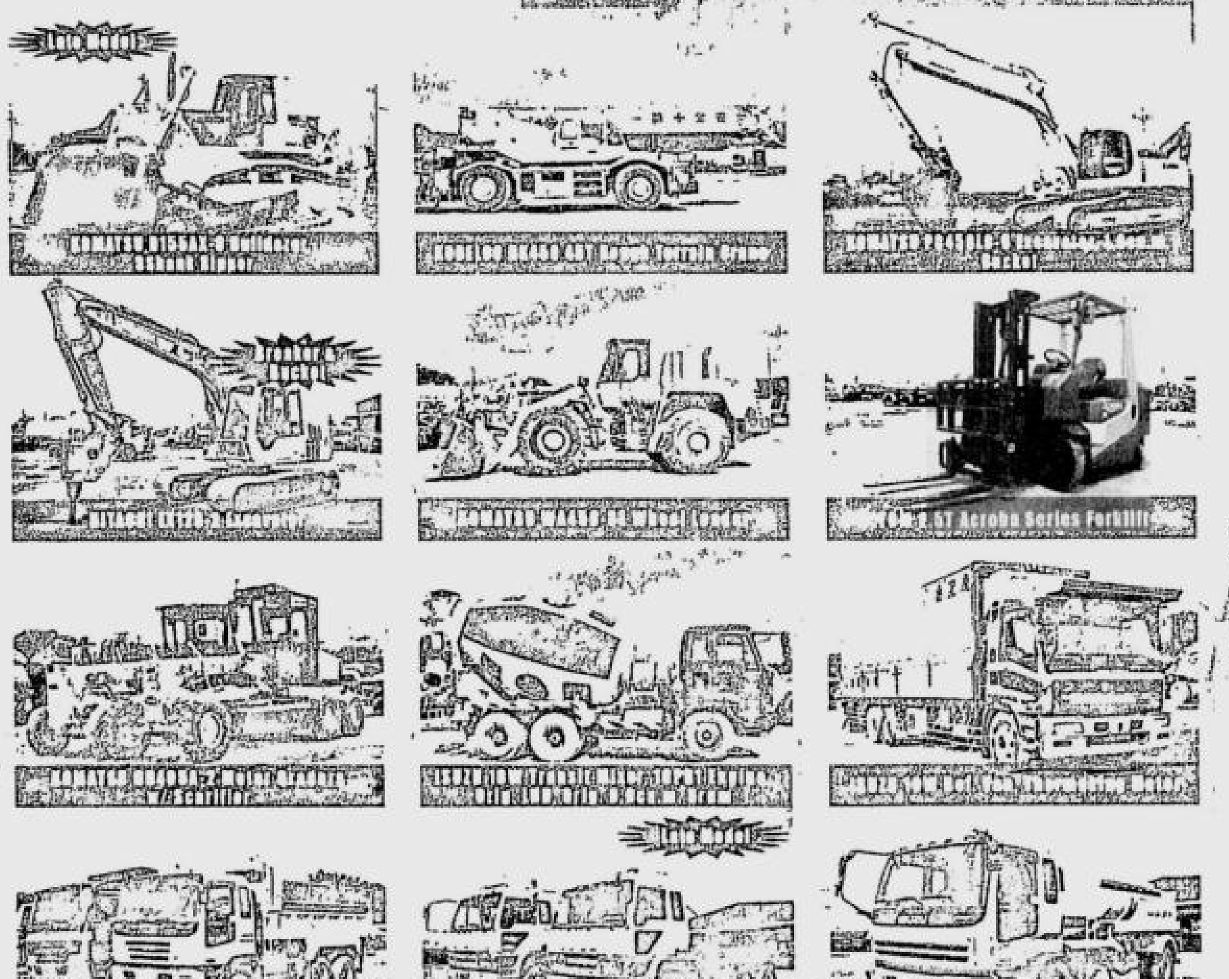
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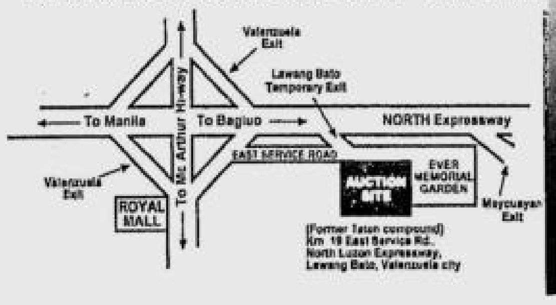

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Fortitude of Catanduanes folk vs calamities hailed

VIRAC, CATANDUANES—PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday paid tribute to the Catandunganons' fortitude and religiosity that have enabled them to withstand the challenges of calamities and poverty.

In her brief speech before hundreds of government employees, students and residents at the Capitol here, the President likewise made a strong pitch for her handling of the Philippine economy.

"Our economy has reached a new level of maturity and stability, with some of the strongest macro-economic fundamentals ever implemented," Ms Arroyo declared.

"Over the next three years, we will translate the positive gains of reforms into real benefits for our people," she said.

The President's arrival here yesterday turned out to be the highlight of the weeklong celebration of the island province's 62nd foundation anniversary.

The presidential plane landed at Virac airport at 11:30 a.m., with the President, Vice President Noli de Castro, Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap, Social Work Secretary Esperanza Cabral and presidential son Rep. Dato Arroyo passing by the home of Rep. Joseph A. Santiago (NPC) for lunch.

After meeting with local officials headed by Gov. Joseph Cua, Ms Arroyo proceeded to unveil the marker commemorating the completion of Phase I of the Catanduanes Circumferential Road Improvement Project, a 79-kilometer stretch from San Andres to Viga costing over P1 billion and undertaken by the China Road and Bridge Corp.

She also formally opened the One-Town, One-Product exhibit at the capitol lobby where products from the island's 11 towns will be displayed until Oct. 27.

During a brief program at the capitol, the President distributed PhilHealth cards and gave funds to local governments, awarded checks to scholars of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, turned over 50 computer units to schools and issued a P10-million check under the DA-Care program for farm-to-market roads, and inaugurated two Tindahan ni Gloria outlets.

Ms Arroyo had come from Legazpi City in Albay to attend the first-ever National Conference on Climate Change Adaptation in the country hosted by Albay Gov. Joey Salceda.

The Presidential Task Force on Climate Change had also come up with the Philippine Climate Change Response Action Plan, which was submitted by Energy Secretary Angelo Reyes, PTFCC chair, to the President. *Fernan Gianan, Inquirer Southern Luzon, and Michael Lim Ubac*

President takes closer look at airport security measures

UPON HER ARRIVAL FROM BICOL YESterday afternoon, President Macapagal-Arroyo took advantage of the opportunity to inspect the security measures being implemented at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) following the Makati blast.

She was received by Immigration Commissioner Marcelino Libanan and Naia Assistant Administrator for Security Angel Atutubo who both assured her of the "heightened security" alert being implemented in both the international passenger terminals in Naia.

Ms Arroyo stood beside the security personnel manning the security monitor for luggages passing through the X-ray machines and also took time to chat with passengers arriving from abroad. A beaming Ms Arroyo later waved to members of the media, but did not issue any statement.

The President did not issue any additional directives, either, said Atutubo.

"She was smiling, so I guess she's satisfied. As you can see, you have a good (camera shot) of the President," said Atutubo. *Michael Lim Ubac*

Fil-Am doc gets life term in jail

By Nimfa U. Rueda
Correspondent

LOS ANGELES—STILL REELING FROM the furor over the "Desperate Housewives" episode which used the Philippine medical education as a punchline, Filipino Americans yesterday received another piece of bad news: A Filipino doctor in Georgia was sentenced to life imprisonment for causing a patient's death.

Judge Amanda Williams on Saturday sentenced Noel Natividad-Chua to life in prison after a jury found him guilty of felony murder charges in the overdose death of Jamie Carter, the Florida Times Union reported yesterday.

Williams also sentenced Chua to five years in prison after he was found guilty of seven of 16 drug charges for violating the Georgia Controlled Substance Act, according to the news report.

The jurors deliberated nearly 11 hours, weighing evidence and conflicting testimony from the week-long trial, the news report said.

Filipino American groups yesterday vowed to support Chua, a Georgia-based Filipino doctor, as they anticipated the appeal of his case.

"We will continue to support Dr. Chua as he seeks other legal recourse in his struggle to prove his innocence and seek justice," said Alma Kern, chair of the National Federation of Filipino American Associations (NaFFAA), in a statement released yesterday.

Believing that Chua had been wrongly accused, NaFFAA had led peaceful rallies and helped raise funds for his legal defense. Chua's assets had been frozen after he was charged with violation of the anti-racketeering statute, RICO, which many believed was unjustified.

An expensive court battle is expected as Chua takes his case to the appellate court and, possibly, all the way to the United States Supreme Court.

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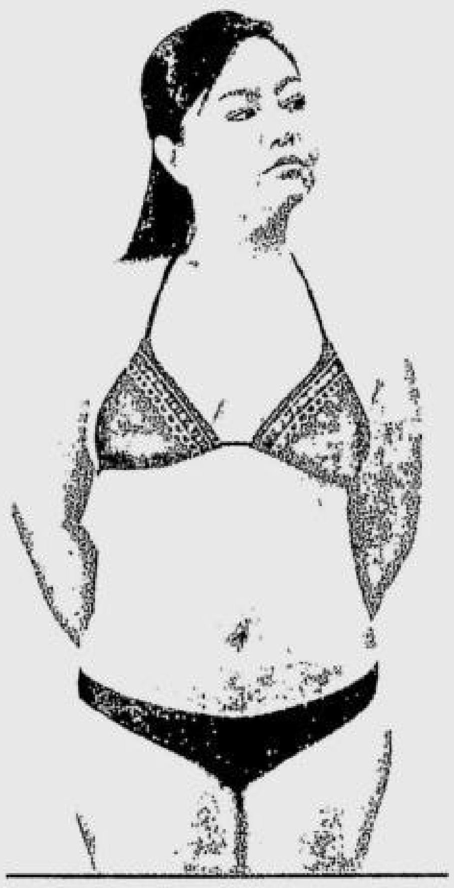

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Bulacan governor links GMA ally to money bags

From page A1

to do with the distribution of the money, which occurred during the Oct. 11 meetings at the Palace attended by about 190 congressmen and 48 provincial governors, according to several politicians who were present.

Malacañang denies

Caught in the web of another political scandal, Malacañang has denied being the source of the funds.

The Arroyo administration was also recently wracked by a controversy over the grant of a $329-million telecommunications contract to China's ZTE Corp. Ms Arroyo scrapped the project following allegations that the contract was accompanied by offers of hefty bribes.

"*Oras na para malaman ng ating kababayan kung ano ang totoong nangyari at kung sino talaga ang taong nanduruon* (It is time for the people to know what really happened and who were the people who were there)," Mendoza told a press conference.

Evardone was a spokesperson of Ms Arroyo's Team Unity senatorial ticket during the elections in May. He also played a key role in the Arroyo-backed attempt last year to revise the Constitution, which the Supreme Court thwarted.

Mendoza said that after the LPP meeting at the Palace ended at 4 p.m., an LPP staffer asked him to go to a room.

There, he said he saw Panadero, Plaza, a third man whom he did not know, and the woman in white.

The woman soon handed Mendoza the two paper bags.

Mendoza said he talked to Panadero about his request to have Senior Supt. Asher Dolina, Bulacan police director, replaced after which he left the room.

'What really happened'

Mendoza said he then caught up with Panlilio and gave the bag to Panlilio's chief of staff, Archie Reyes.

The Bulacan governor said he decided to reveal all that he knew upon the advice of his family, friends and Malolos Bishop Jose Francisco Oliveros.

"I believe speaking the truth is the right thing to do. It is my duty, as an elected public official, to tell you what really happened. I believe that speaking the truth will free us all," he said in Filipino.

Mendoza lamented that despite speaking the truth, Panlilio had been sued for bribery by lawyer Oliver Lozano.

Not Medy Poblador

He said reports had been going around that he himself would be charged with bribery and that the Department of the Interior and Local Government would suspend him after the barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections on Oct. 29.

Asked to describe the features of the woman who handed him the bags of money, Mendoza said: "*Bata* (Young)."

"I really could not recall how she looks but definitely it was not Medy Poblador (Remedios Poblador, a Malacañang official) because I saw her (Poblador's) pictures in the papers," he said.

Asked if he saw other paper bags in the room, Mendoza said, "None."

He said he was not distancing himself from Ms Arroyo.

"I'm a member of Kampi [Ms Arroyo's party]. I just want to know the truth where the money really came from. For all we know, the President may not know about this," he said.

Letters of denial

Mendoza said he did not see his fellow governors receive the same paper bags that he and Panlilio got.

He said the P500,000 he received had been deposited in a trust fund of the provincial government at the Land Bank of the Philippines.

Malacañang has officially denied that the money received by Panlilio and Mendoza came from the Office of the President.

In a letter dated Oct. 19, Gloria Bundoc, director of the Office of the President's finance office, said the "Office of the President has not released/disbursed any amount to your province."

Panlilio and Mendoza received identical letters on Friday.

Panadero denied he was involved in the alleged monetary handouts.

In a statement, Panadero confirmed he was in Malacañang that day but only to attend a Cabinet meeting and the oath-taking of the new officers of the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (Ulap).

Panadero said he talked with Mendoza but they only discussed the call by Bulacan local officials for the relief of Bulacan provincial police commander.

"I'm quite surprised why ill motives are being attached to what was just a chance encounter with the governor," Panadero said.

Panadero also said he saw Ray Roquero, the executive director of Lakas-CMD, handing the governor a paper bag with the money inside. Panadero wondered why Mendoza chose not to mention Roquero's name.

"In fact, I'm more surprised why Gov. Mendoza had chosen to identify me and not Roquero, who was the one I saw handing the governor the paper bag," he said.

Roquero's denial

Panadero said: "I saw him (Roquero) giving a paper bag to the governor, although I could not ascertain what its contents were."

Roquero denied Panadero's claim.

Roquero, who sits on the board of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority, admitted that he went to the Palace that day but not to meet Panadero, and that Mendoza was a "total stranger."

"I don't have any knowledge of, much less any participation, directly or indirectly, in the alleged distribution of gifts to local officials as reported," Roquero told the INQUIRER by phone.

Roquero said he was at the Palace at the invitation of Binalonan, Pangasinan, Mayor Ramon Guico, interim president of Ulap.

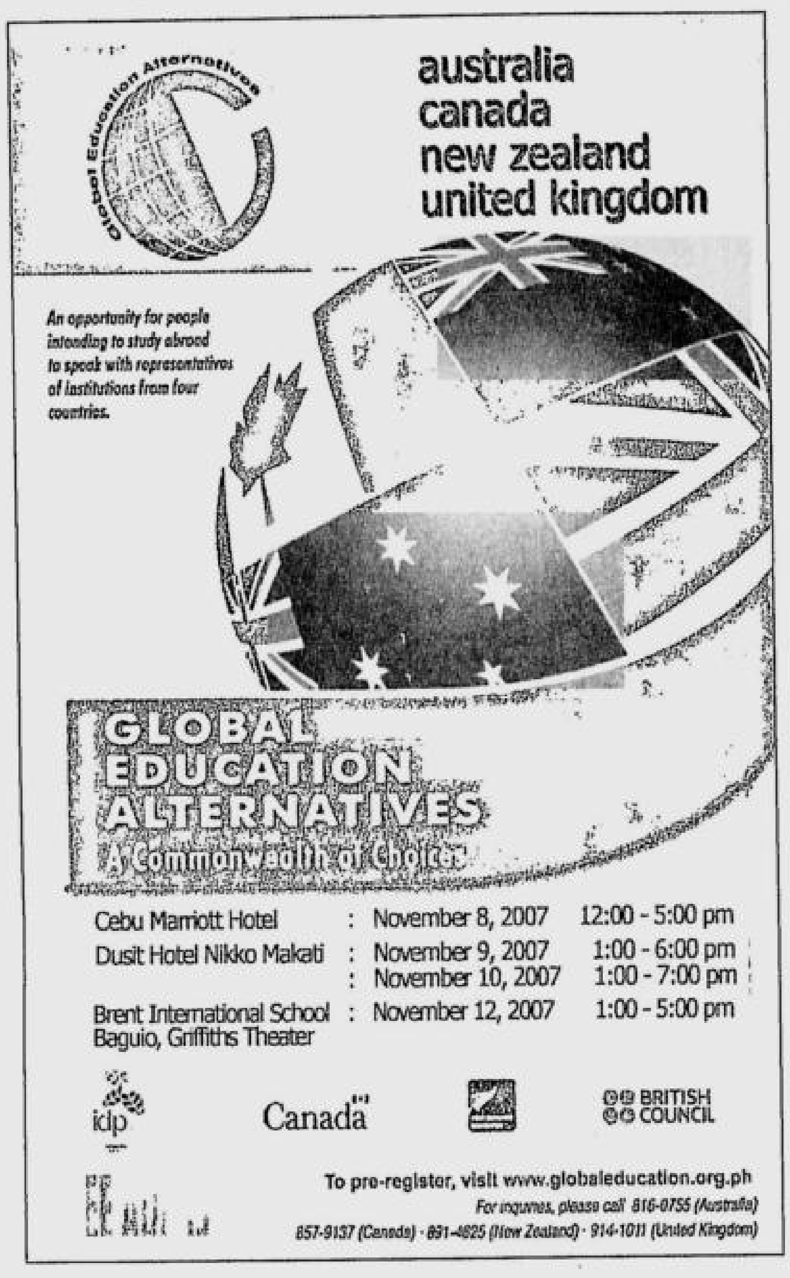
Roquero denied he was in the same room in Malacañang where two bags containing P500,000 in cash were supposedly handed to Mendoza.

"My meeting with Undersecretary Austere Panadero was purely by accident," he said.

A ranking member of Lakas-CMD called on the party to look into Panadero's allegations against Roquero.

"If there is truth to this allegation made by Undersecretary Panadero, the party will be hit badly," Surigao del Norte Rep. Robert Ace Barbers said in a phone interview.

House Majority Floor Leader Arthur Defensor of Iloilo said there was no need for the party to investigate Roquero. *With a report from Norman Bordadora*



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Help country's small businesses: Buy local

From page A1

my, Cielito Habito said Wednesday.

Habito offered these simple tips to the public when he spoke about the wisdom of "*bayanihan* economy" or solidarity economy, an emerging grassroots-based alternative to the country's capitalist economy.

He said the 7-percent economic growth [in the first semester] was "narrow, shallow and hollow" because this was limited to the sectors of information and communications technology, telecommunications, and electronics based in Metro Manila and nearby regions.

Despite the gross domestic product growth, the economic structure promotes widening gaps between the rich and the poor, he said.

In a solidarity economy, best exemplified by cooperatives, employers and workers in the grassroots level share equitably in the work and benefits, he said.

"Economic growth is not development. It's not enough that the economy is growing to be able to say society is developing," Habito said in his inaugural address at the Asian Forum for Solidarity Economy on Oct. 17.

"Where do we want to go? I submit that we want to have a broad-based, sustainable development, where the countryside is an equal participant and beneficiary in development, not just Metro Manila and nearby regions," he said.

Habito chaired the Asian Forum for Solidarity Economy, a four-day conference where delegates from Asia and Europe shared "success stories" on solidarity economy in their countries.

Buy in neighborhood

There are simple steps to promoting solidarity economy, according to Habito.

"Buy local. I don't mean Philippine-made goods. Buy in your neighborhood. I live in Los Baños, and whenever there is a need in the household, I try to make it a point to buy it within Los Baños," the former socioeconomic planning secretary said.

"By doing that, I think we can all help our immediate economies around us," he said.

The rich could adopt a poor family, provide it with livelihood or send one of the children to school, added Habito, an economics professor at the Ateneo de Manila University.

"Twenty-five percent of Filipino families are poor. That means that one out of four families is poor, but this also means three out of four are not poor, and therefore, we need only one of the three who are not poor to adopt one poor family, and help nurture them sustainably out of poverty," he said.

"As the late Raul Roco said, if there's one college graduate in one family, they can get out of poverty," he said.

Do good

Habito said that asking for receipts from business establishments, and obeying traffic rules, were basic steps to following the country's laws that would redound to the country's economic good.

"Do good and tolerate no wrongdoing," he said, even as he admitted to adopting some of the tips from Alex Lacson's best-selling book, "12 Little Things Every Filipino Can Do to Help Our Country."

The idea of solidarity economy was to "promote an economy" in which there's more cooperation than competition, according to Habito.

"It really means looking for alternative ways of doing business, especially when you're looking at a small business. But this also applies to big business," he explained after his talk.

"In a solidarity economy, there's the spirit of *bayanihan*. All the stakeholders in a business are coequal participants and beneficiaries of the enterprise," he said.

The whole idea is "promoting *bayanihan* economy, where people are benefiting rightly, in contrast to the economy we're experiencing now," Habito said.

Cooperative in Mindanao

This type of economy has been best exemplified by a cooperative in Mindanao, specifically the Northern Mindanao Veggies, according to Habito.

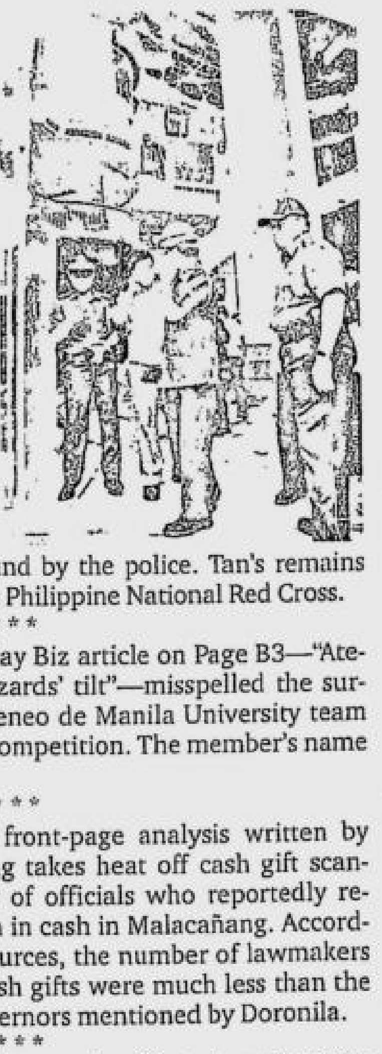
"They were able to bring small vegetable farmers to pool together. They're in fact able to sell as far as Manila. They're selling their produce in supermarkets in Metro Manila more than the Benguet farmers," he said.

"They seem to have found a way to work together in partnership, so *bayanihan* is there."

Some entrepreneurs were catching up with the concept of solidarity economy.

"The seeds are already there. We need to get as many advocates and widen the constituency for this as much as we can," Habito said. "By showcasing [the successes], we can bring more people to practice this kind of enterprise."

Corrections



IN THE OCT. 20 ISSUE, a Page A6 caption mistakenly identified the police officer on the right side of the photo as National Capital Region Police Office Director Geary Barias. Barias is not in the photo. The Philippine National Police, the source of the photo, said it wasn't sure about the identity of the officer in the photo.

* * *

IN THE OCT. 21 ISSUE, the banner story—"P3-M bounty on bomber"—misstated that the body of Renier Tan, one of the fatalities in the recent Glorietta 2 bombing, was found by the police. Tan's remains were found by members of the Philippine National Red Cross.

* * *

IN THE SAME ISSUE, a Sunday Biz article on Page B3—"Ateneo bags young financial wizards' tilt"—misspelled the surname of a member of the Ateneo de Manila University team that won in a recent finance competition. The member's name is Andrea Isabel Co—not Go.

* * *

IN THE OCT. 22 ISSUE, a front-page analysis written by Amando Doronila—"Bombing takes heat off cash gift scandal"—misstated the number of officials who reportedly received a total of P120 million in cash in Malacañang. According to various reports and sources, the number of lawmakers and representatives given cash gifts were much less than the 290 congressmen and 40 governors mentioned by Doronila.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City, fax Nos. 897-47-93/94; e-mail address: daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

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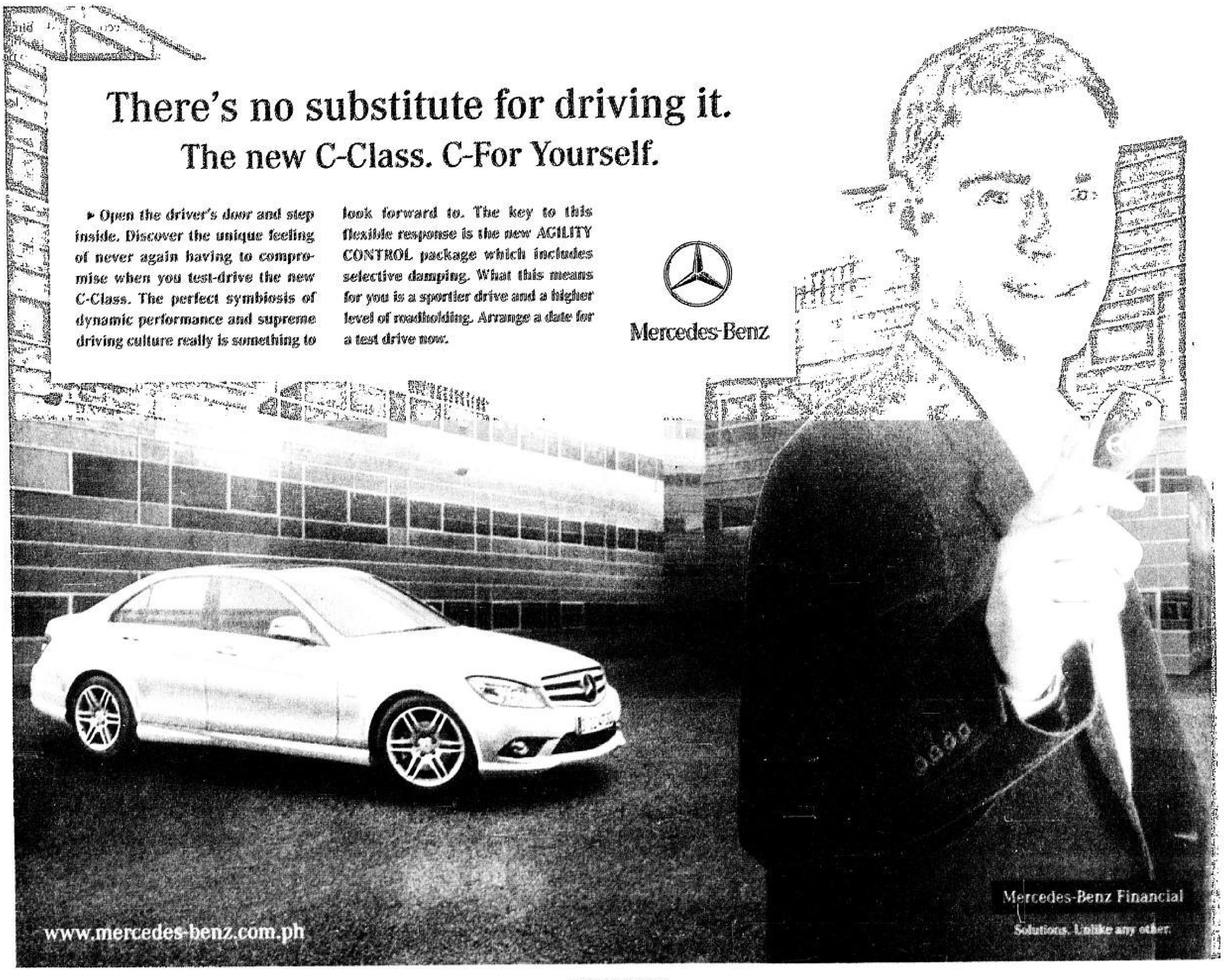

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Stop the Political Noise, Focus on Economic Growth

Certain quarters are capitalizing on a trumped-up incident at Malacañang last October 11 to resurrect their ludicrous call for President Arroyo to step aside halfway through her constitutional term of office.

Their recycled call for a national-leadership change is certainly an absurd one at this point, given that no such incident of alleged impropriety had taken place at the Palace to warrant the President's resignation. If anything, their shrill demand for the Chief Executive to step down for no logical reason at all has only accentuated the farcical nature of their cause and is testament to why their ilk has increasingly been marginalized and cut off from the Filipino majority long smarting from an overdose of divisive politics in our midst.

President Arroyo's resignation is something our nation needs like a hole in the head. We, the officers and members of the League of Provinces of the Philippines (LPP), believe that our country needs the President now more than ever to remain at the helm of Government so she can pursue further structural reforms that are necessary to keep our now robust economy on its high growth course.

The outrageous stories about money changing hands during the formal meeting between President Arroyo and LPP officers and members last week have besmirched not only our collective integrity as the country's chief provincial executives but also that of the Chief Executive herself as the paramount leader of our nation.

It is regrettable that the level of distrust and cynicism in our society has plunged to such depths that these fictitious reports have taken a life of their own as gospel truth—and have unjustly smudged us and Palace executives as the collective persona of transactional politics that opposition and certain civil-society leaders claim to plague Government.

We reiterate what our officers have said when news about this Malacañang incident first broke out last week: we did not, as a whole, receive cash gifts from any Palace functionary during or after that Oct. 11 meeting, let alone get any instruction from anybody to oppose a third attempt in the House of Representatives to impeach President Arroyo.

We believe we have been elected to our current local government positions on the strength of our respective constituents' faith in our competence, integrity, and independence. We certainly have not betrayed, and do not intend to betray, this electoral mandate by kowtowing to anybody or sacrificing our principles for any monetary incentive.

Our wholehearted support for President Arroyo and her administration is founded on her unwavering commitment to genuine local autonomy, as underlined by, among others, her "super regions" strategy and such budgetary outlays as the Kilos Asenso and Kalayaan funds that will truly empower local government units and spur countryside development. In fact, we were at the Palace on Thursday last week to discuss with the President the progress of projects supportive of the "super regions."

Hence, there is no need for the Chief Executive to offer us any incentive, much less bribe us, in exchange for our continued support for her government and our strident opposition to any leadership shakeup ahead of the 2010 elections.

Moreover, there is no need for the Executive Department to win us over in this new impeachment episode for we are neither members of the House nor the Senate whose votes are needed to impeach or, later, convict the President.

We are hoping that this declaration will finally put this non-issue to rest, and allow not only us elective officials but all other sectors as well to get back to the urgent business at hand, which is to work together with President Arroyo in sustaining and accelerating the growth of our economy.

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TEACHERS' GROUP'S LAMENT

No training yet for poll duty

WITH BARELY A WEEK TO GO before the barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections, the Commission on Elections has yet to conduct the necessary training for the country's 500,000-plus public school teachers who will serve in the polls.

Antonio Tinio, chair of the 15,000-strong Alliance of Concerned Teachers (ACT), yesterday said "as far as we know, these trainings have yet to be scheduled."

The militant ACT called on both the Comelec and the Department of Education to immediately address the matter.

"The situation is urgent. Comelec and the DepEd must work closely to ensure that teachers are given the proper training in the limited time that's left," said Tinio.

"The legally mandated procedures for the barangay and SK polls are very different from the May 14 national elections. That's why, it is crucial that teachers get the proper training," he said.

Tinio noted that "teachers usually experience more harassment and intimidation during barangay elections."

"Since rival candidates and their supporters are mostly neighbors and the contest will be decided then and there at the polling centers, teachers are often at the receiving end of harassment by losers. They can pounce on some minor errors committed by the teachers and file charges and delay the proclamation of winners," he said.

Tinio also urged the Arroyo administration to allocate additional funds "to augment the pay of teachers serving in next week's polls."

"Our demand is for teachers to receive the same package of pay, allowances, benefits and protection as in the May 14 national elections. Unfortunately, Comelec's budget provides for less," he said.

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RP 4th biggest receiver of funds from overseas workers, says UN

AMONG THE WORLD'S "DEVELOPING countries," the Philippines is the fourth biggest receiver of money from migrant workers in 2006, according to the recent report by the United Nation's International Fund for Agricultural Development.

The report, "Sending money home: Worldwide remittance flows to developing countries," showed that the Philippines received $14.6 billion remittances from overseas Filipino workers last year.

The remittances from OFWs comprise over 10 percent of the country's gross national product, according to the Department of Labor and Employment.

Last June 2006, in time for the school opening, remittances from OFWs helped increase the value of peso after it threatened to fall past P53:$1.

Senate economic affairs committee chair Loren Legarda said in a press release yesterday that the government should "consciously bring down burdensome remittance fees." Legarda said that this is "the single most efficient way to make full economic use of remittance flows."

India ranked first with $24.5 billion, followed by Mexico, $24.4 billion; and China, $21 billion remittances. *Schatzi Quodala, Inquirer Research*

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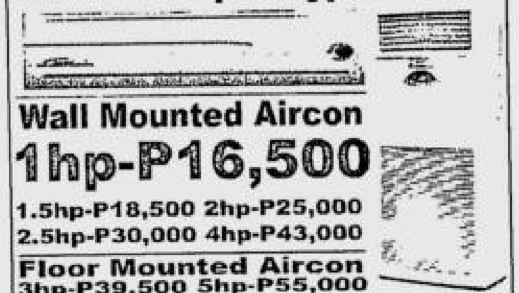
THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday, October 23, 2007
29th Week in Ordinary Time
John of Capistrano
1st Reading: Rom 5: 12, 15, 17-19, 20-21
Gospel: Luke 12:35-38

Jesus said to his disciples, "Be ready, dressed for service, and keep your lamps lit, like people waiting for their master to return from the wedding. As soon as he comes and knocks, they will open to him. Happy are those servants whom the master finds wide-awake when he comes. Truly, I tell you, he will put on an apron and have them sit at table and he will wait on them. Happy are those servants if he finds them awake when he comes at midnight or daybreak!"

Commentary

God is the gracious gift of life—on a human level, and on every other level. Do we live in that gift that has been given to us in Jesus where it abounds for all? Do we live with overflowing justice and obedience, in imitation of Jesus who has brought us salvation in living justly so that we may know how to please God and bring life to the world? As the Christian year winds down Jesus warns us to live with our lamps burning ready and belts around our waists ready to go at the word of God. Are we ready to open to God our hearts and lives, our relationships and communities? Would God find us wide-awake and so, would serve us? God would serve us! We must pray for one another that together we will live lives of justice and obedience to the Word so that all of us will be ready whatever time God would come—either in our deaths, in communal judgment, or at the end of time.



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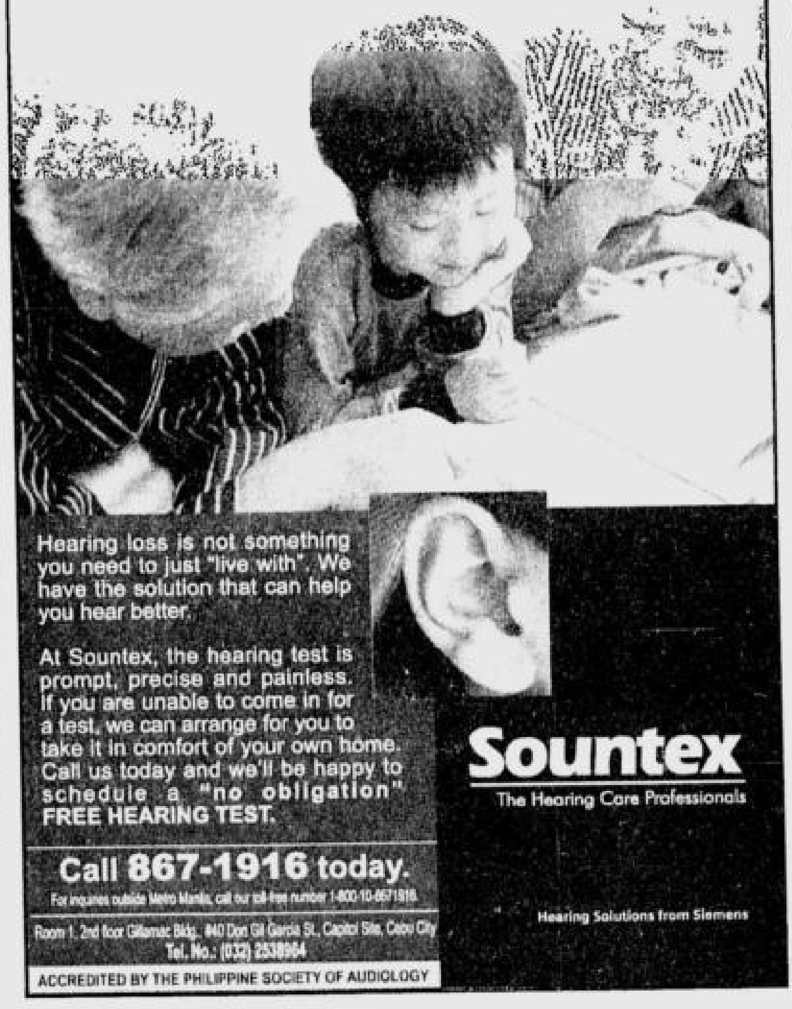

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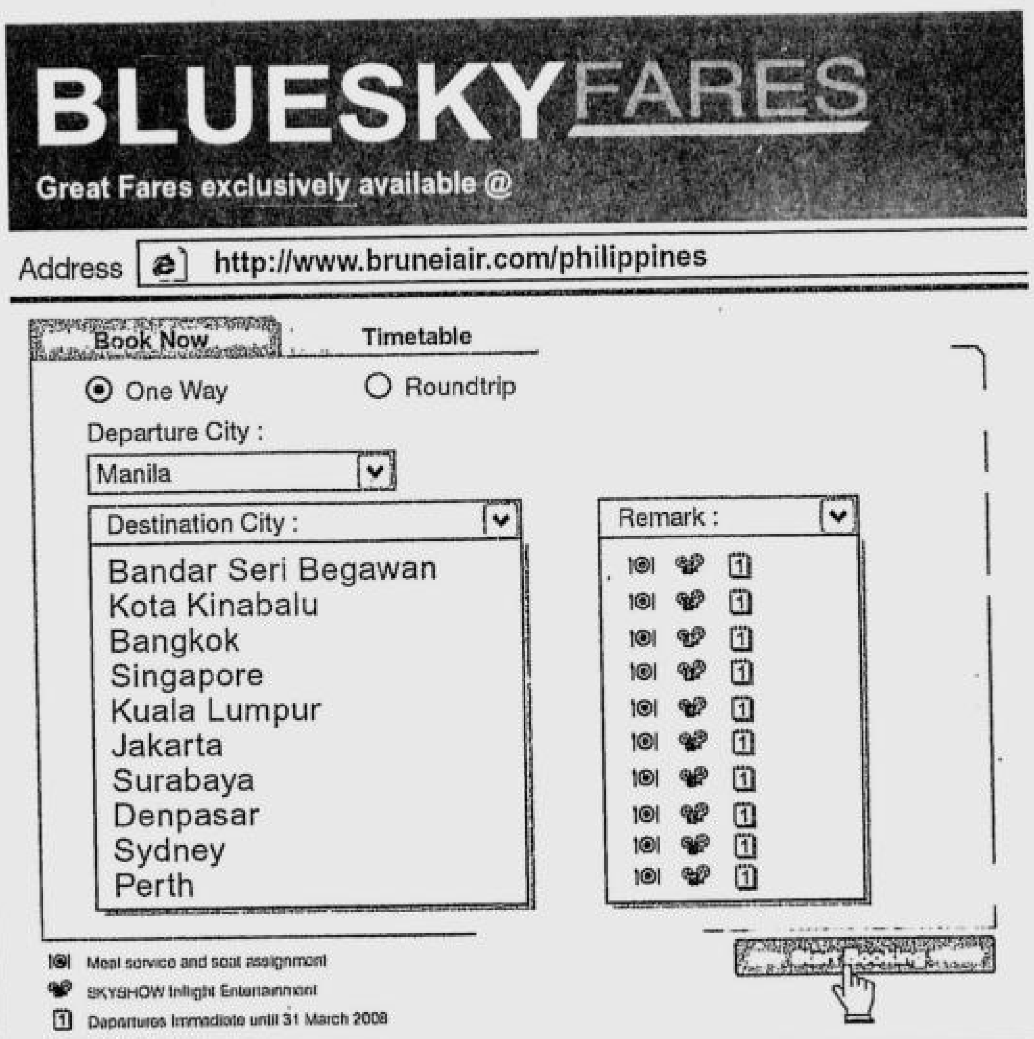

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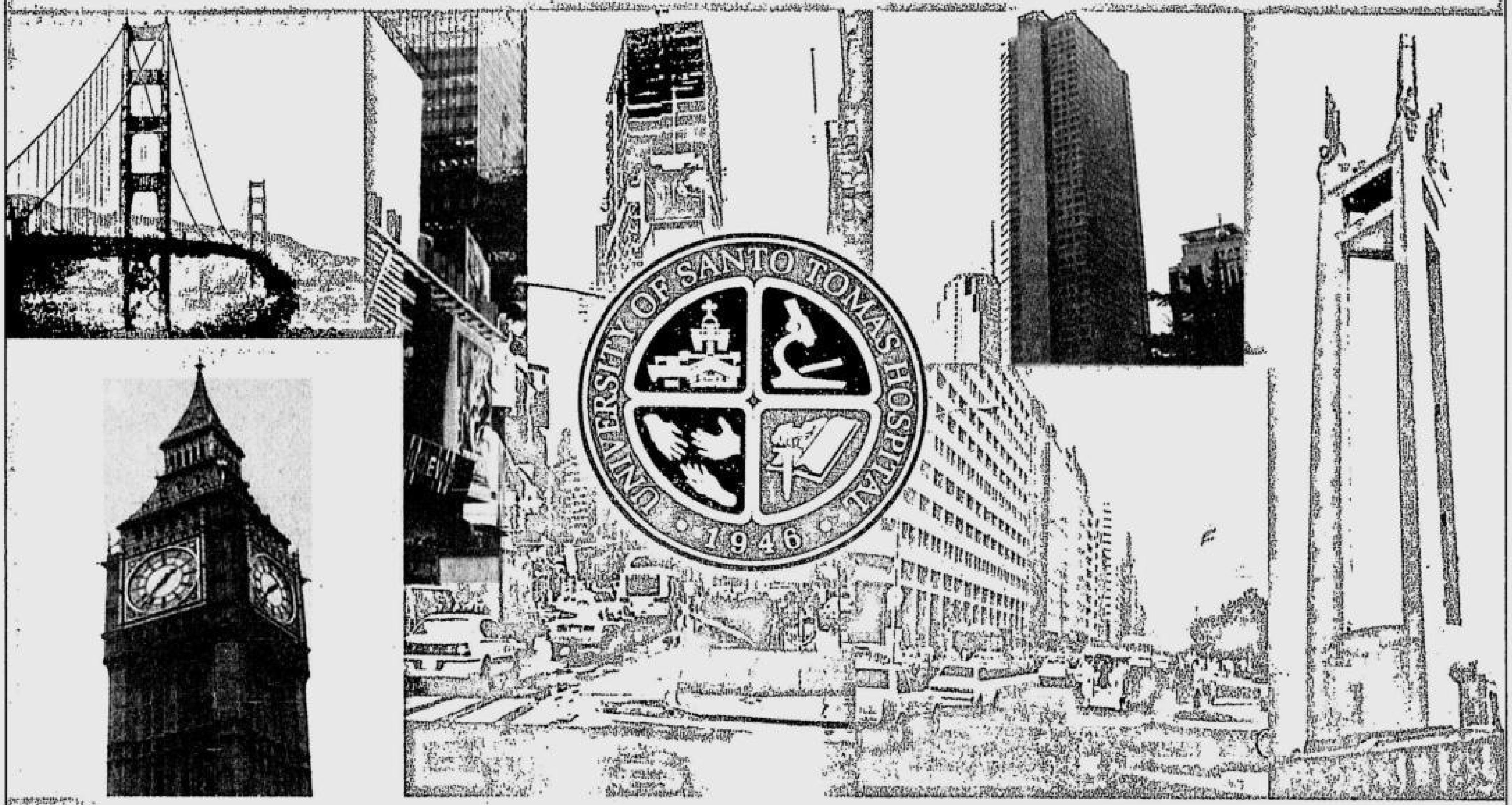

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NEWSBRIEFS

Ex-PBA cager held at airport

A FORMER professional basketball player was arrested Sunday night by airport security personnel for alleged possession of live bullets for a .38 caliber pistol. Rizal Severiano Victorino, popularly known as Manny Victorino, 48, was prevented from taking his flight to Guam at about 9:35 p.m. at the Naia terminal 1 after the bullets were seen on X-ray in the final screening checkpoint. Airport security personnel said Victorino claimed he did not know that it was illegal to bring live bullets inside the airport. Victorino wore jerseys for Ginebra, Great Taste, Presto and Pepsi during his days at the Philippine Basketball Association. *Cynthia Balana*

Reyes; 75

CONRADO M. Reyes, Sr. of Mambangnan, San Leonardo, Nueva Ecija and former Regional Census Officer of Region III based in Pampanga passed away on Oct. 10. He was 75 years old. He was buried on Oct. 16 in San Leonardo, Nueva Ecija. Reyes was also the former Provincial Census Officer of Marinduque and Nueva Ecija.

He is survived by his wife Lydia Atayde Reyes, and children: Conrado Jr. (Ed) and Gina; Ly Stella and Rene Barruela; Lyn Ella; Conrado, III (Adie) and Girlie; Seyer and Precy; and grandchildren: Joko, Pia, Gabby, Patricia, Paolo, Enrico, Bea, Dana and Karl.

Preventing terror acts

THE CHAIR of the House committee on public order and safety yesterday filed a bill proposing the penalty of life imprisonment to persons found in possession of enough explosives to commit acts of terror. Nueva Ecija Rep. Rodolfo Antonino said there was a need to punish severely the possession of explosives and hazardous materials to prevent incidents such as the explosion that hit Glorietta 2 on Friday.

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Erap seeks pardon

From page A1

which President Estrada is always willing to subordinate his own, we appeal to Your Excellency to grant him full, free and unconditional pardon," read the three-page letter dated Oct. 22.

The letter, signed by Estrada's lead counsel Jose Flaminiano and received by Devanadera at 4 p.m., informed Ms Arroyo that "they had withdrawn their motion for reconsideration."

Flaminiano was referring to the appeal lodged by Estrada in the Sandiganbayan on Sept. 26 to reverse the guilty verdict it handed down on Sept. 12.

'Wisdom of lawyers'

Estrada yesterday said he "bowed to the wisdom of his lawyers" to seek presidential pardon during a half-hour meeting at his Polk Street residence on Saturday, a day after the Sandiganbayan heard his motion for reconsideration.

"I realized I really don't stand a chance with the justice system that we have ... so I bowed to the wisdom of my lawyers," he told the INQUIRER in a phone interview from his rest house in Tanay, Rizal, where he has been under house arrest since 2004.

But Estrada made it clear that it wasn't he who wrote the letter to Ms Arroyo but his lawyers.

A petition withdrawing the motion for reconsideration and supplemental motion for reconsideration and waiving Estrada's rights to appeal was filed a few minutes before the antigraft court closed yesterday afternoon.

'Sharply wounded nation'

Explaining the unexpected move, Flaminiano said Estrada's camp believed it was time to move forward and heal the "sharply wounded nation."

"The nation is divided because of this issue. What we need is a start of a healing process in the midst of poverty and terrorism," the lawyer told the INQUIRER.

Though he personally believed that strong grounds urging the Sandiganbayan to overturn its verdict were raised, legal luminaries had advised that a reversal would be difficult, Flaminiano said.

"Our consensus is that there is a very slim chance that the Sandiganbayan will reconsider its original guilty verdict," Estrada's defense lawyers said in the letter.

They said Estrada's imminent transfer from his Tanay estate to the National Penitentiary in Muntinlupa "may generate bad feelings on the part of many of our countrymen which may boil over again."

"Passions on both sides would be aroused. A period of prolonged faultfinding and recrimination would be disastrous for the nation. Our republic needs recovery, not revenge," the letter said.

SC appeal

Flaminiano added that an appeal before the Supreme Court might take 10 years to resolve, considering that the high tribunal had other "equally important" cases to attend to.

Devanadera said Malacañang had instructed her to process the application for pardon.

"It has been handed to me with the instruction from the acting executive secretary (Ignacio Bunye) for the Department of Justice to process and to make the necessary recommendation as soon as possible," she said.

"We shall be submitting to the President the recommendation of the DOJ within this week. The exercise of whether or not the pardon will be granted is solely the discretion of the President," Devanadera said, stressing that she had yet to see the attachments.

Final decision

Executive clemency, she said, could not be exercised "unless there is a finality" in the Sandiganbayan decision.

"But with the withdrawal, it appears that there will already be a finality," Devanadera said.

"At first, I did not agree with the move, I wanted to stand by my earlier decision," Estrada admitted.

Aside from his systematic collection of jueteng payoffs, Estrada was also found to have received a P189-million commission from the purchase of Belle Corp. shares, using state pension funds.

The Sandigan sentenced him to up to 40 years imprisonment "with corresponding accessory penalties," such as forfeiture of his assets and properties derived from illegal sources during his truncated regime.

Estrada's lawyers had been optimistic that the court would grant their motion for reconsideration after Friday's oral arguments. The amended information, they argued, failed to establish a link that would bind the two offenses for which the former President was convicted.

Different tune

Three days after, the defense lawyers were singing a different tune. Estrada yesterday said the more than six years incarceration he endured was enough for him and there were many things awaiting for him outside.

"I can do something more for the country [if I am free]. I will continue fighting for the rights of the people. Nobody can stop me," said the 70-year-old convict.

Most importantly, Estrada said, he would be able to spend longer hours with his ailing 102-year-old mother, Mary Ejercito, at the San Juan Medical Center without asking the court each time.

"I would like to be with her in the last few days or months of her life," he said.

Devanadera said there was no need to meet with Flaminiano or any of Estrada's defense lawyers "for as long as they have all the documentary requirements submitted" to the DOJ.

Ms Arroyo was inspecting the security measures being implemented at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport early afternoon when she was informed of Estrada's letter, the acting secretary said.

The President was visibly happy, she added. *With reports from Reuters, AP*

TIMELINE: ERAP BLINKS

AUG. 12—SPEAKER JOSE DE VENECIA says that an all-encompassing amnesty for all enemies of the state, including deposed former President Joseph Estrada, is in the works.

Sept. 10—Estrada says he is resigned to his fate and insists that he will not accept a pardon from Ms Arroyo if the court should convict him, saying pardons are only for the guilty. He says he is prepared to leave his Tanay estate and go to the New Bilibid Prisons in Muntinlupa City if he is pronounced guilty by the Sandiganbayan.

Sept. 12—Estrada is found guilty of plunder on two counts and sentenced up to 40 years in prison.

Presidential Legal Adviser Sergio Apostol says Estrada can be pardoned by Ms Arroyo who has made it a policy to grant executive clemency to inmates 70 years old and older (Estrada turned 70 on April 19) and that "this pardon is absolutely within the discretion of the President."

Sept. 13—Rep. Rufus Rodriguez, spokesperson of Estrada's Partido ng Masang Pilipino, says an "all-encompassing" amnesty—not pardon—will be acceptable for the Estrada camp.

Sept. 23—Saying his main concern was his ailing mother, Estrada says he will accept unconditional pardon that will involve no admission of guilt, if Malacañang offers it to him.

Sept. 24—Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno says he has been authorized by Ms Arroyo to negotiate a pardon with Estrada if it is brought to her official attention and validly based and issued. Puno interprets the proposed unconditional pardon to mean that the government will no longer confiscate P1 billion in ill-gained assets that the deposed President has allegedly acquired and that the Sandiganbayan wants forfeited to the state.

Acting Justice Secretary Agnes Devanadera says an absolute pardon will not erase a convict's record and that an absolute pardon cannot involve no admission of guilt since Estrada has already been convicted.

Sept. 25—Estrada and Puno hold their first round of talks on the proposed presidential pardon.

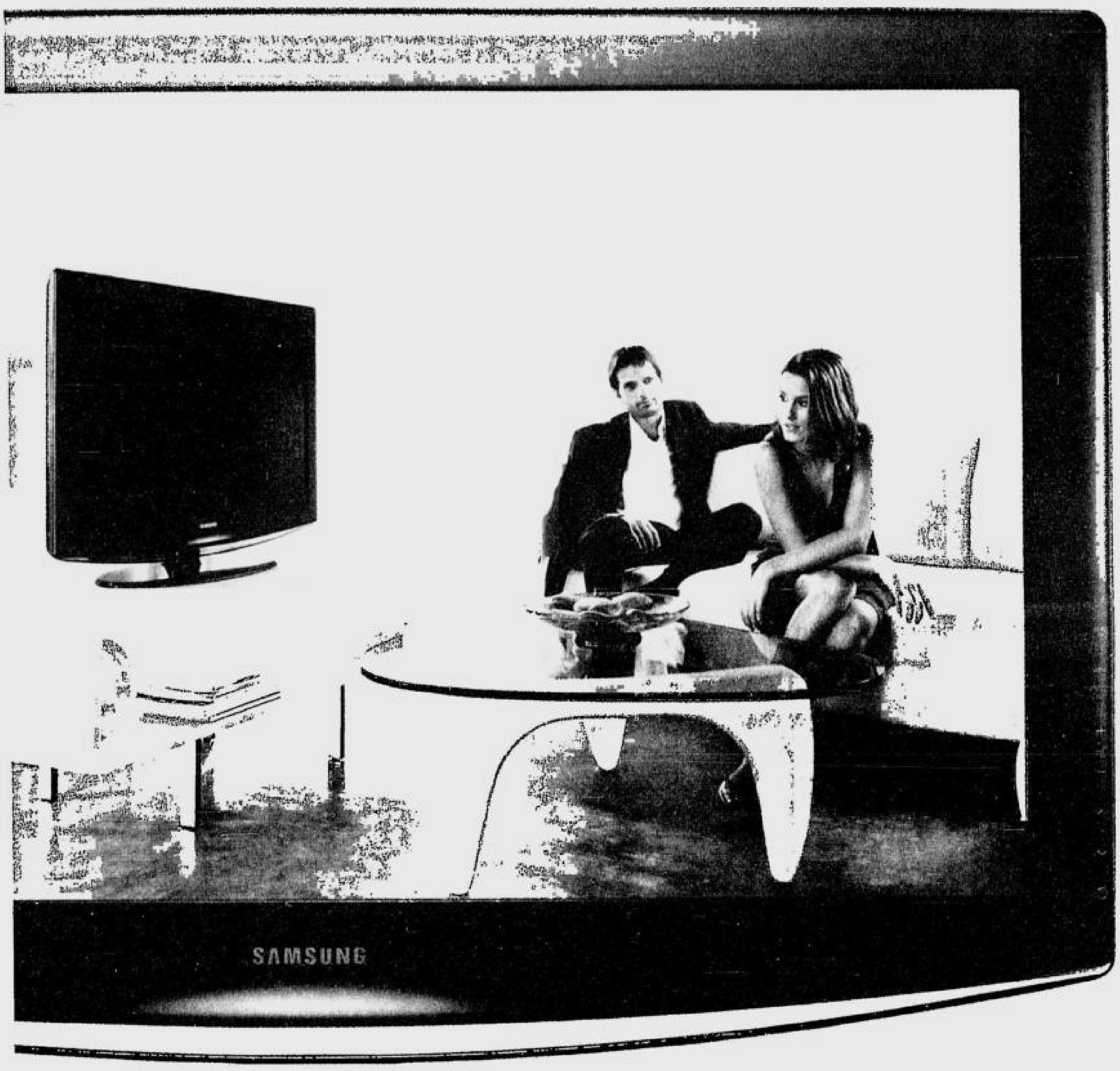
Sept. 26, 2007—Estrada files a motion for reconsideration with the Sandiganbayan.

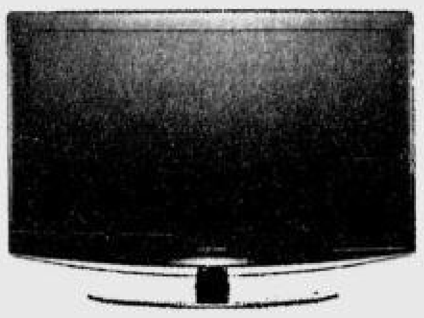
Sept. 30, 2007—Rodriguez says the Estrada camp favors shelving the presidential pardon because Malacañang is merely using the issue to "defuse" the raging National Broadband Network scandal.

Oct. 1—Puno says there will be no more discussions on pardon until Estrada's conviction of plunder becomes final and executory, adding that Estrada should apply for pardon with Ms Arroyo if he wants clemency.

Oct. 22—Estrada asks Ms Arroyo for "full, free and unconditional" pardon.

Eliza Victoria, Inquirer Research





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No way out

EDITORIAL

IT IS A MEASURE OF THE DEEP PUBLIC DISTRUST for the Arroyo administration that so many people instinctively suspected it to have engineered the explosion that killed 11 people at the Glorietta mall in Makati last Friday. Not a few people were ready to believe Sen. Antonio Trillanes when he accused the administration, without offering a shred of evidence, of planning the blast to divert public attention from the *payola* scandal involving the distribution of millions of pesos right inside Malacañang. But whether it was a deliberate attack, by terrorists inside government or outside, or an accident, as investigators now seem inclined to believe, one thing is clear: the explosion blew the *payola* scandal off the headlines.

The diversion should be a temporary one. Without trivializing the Glorietta tragedy, the public should turn its attention once more to the greater national tragedy that is the Palace *payola* scandal. Until Friday's explosion, pressure was building up for the Arroyo administration to give a full, frank and honest explanation for the distribution of sums ranging from P200,000 to P500,000 to hundreds of congressmen and governors who had been invited to a meeting at the Palace. The country's Catholic bishops denounced the incident as a sign of the "moral bankruptcy" of the country's leaders. The Makati Business Club called for the creation of an independent body, composed of respected individuals, to conduct a formal inquiry. Both houses of Congress planned an investigation.

There should be no let-up in demanding a full accounting of what transpired after the meeting presided over by the President. Up to this point, the administration has not clarified anything, but instead has simply sought to confound its critics and confuse the public regarding the incident.

When unnamed sources exposed the payoffs, Malacañang at first flatly denied the story. But then Cebu Rep. Antonio Cuenco publicly admitted that he had accepted a cash gift at the Palace. Pampanga Gov. Eduardo Panlilio had a similar confession, and Bulacan Gov. Joselito Mendoza confirmed it. Manila Rep. Bienvenido Abante also said he got some money after the Palace meeting. With two officials each present at two separate meetings confirming the cash distribution, the administration finally conceded that money might have changed hands in the Palace premises, but dissembled as to the source of the funds and the purpose.

At one time or another, administration officials said the money was meant either as financial assistance for local projects or help to local officials who had to support their own candidates in the barangay elections or a token of appreciation for the congressmen's support for the administration's legislative agenda. Local Government Secretary Ronaldo Puno at first said the money came from the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines, but the group denied it. Puno next claimed that the money came from the House of Representatives, but Speaker Jose de Venecia said if the House had funds to be handed out to congressmen he would have done the distributing himself. Then other Palace officials said the money could have come from private sources.

But in their mad scramble to come up with an explanation, no one seems to have bothered to check if any of these explanation could stand legal scrutiny. The law says that any disbursement of public funds must be covered by a receipt or voucher. Nobody demanded or got it in this case. And what if the money came from private donations. The Administrative Code says that money and property received by a public official "must be accounted for as government funds and government property." The whole affair has illegal written all over it.

Still the most pathetic attempt to justify the *payola* was that given by Environment Secretary Lito Atienza and some administration apologists who claimed that the giving of cash to local officials was a long-standing practice of Philippine presidents. This was denied by former President Fidel V. Ramos who also pointed out that Atienza was not the Manila mayor during his presidency.

Ramos should have reminded Atienza that tradition does not make bribery legal or moral. Murder is as old as Cain, but nobody has suggested that long practice has made it acceptable.

It is becoming harder and harder for the administration to extricate itself from this mess. So it will probably try to protect itself either by keeping its lips sealed or concocting more lies. How much longer will our other institutions put up with the deception?

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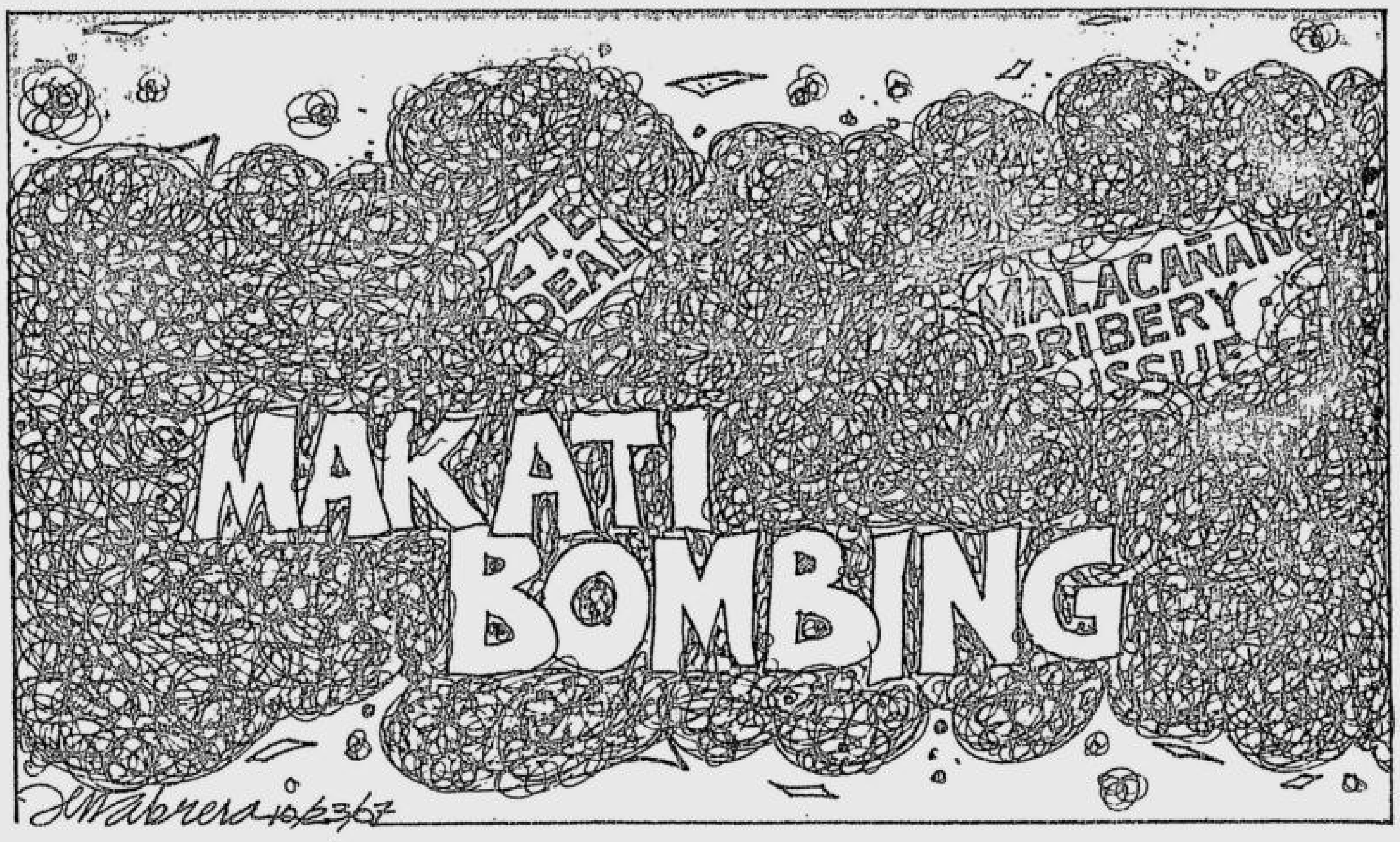

Political viagra

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

HEADLINES STILL SIZZLE AROUND FACELESS Malacañang staffers dumping cash-stuffed packages on all-too-willing officials. Almost unnoticed, Internal Revenue Allotments (IRAs) have emerged as similar political viagra.

IRAs are local governments' share in taxes collected. They now top P137 billion, the Commission on Audit says. If the shares of 41,979 barangays are tacked on, the total adds up to P166 billion.

This fund grew by 13.4 percent last year alone, COA's "Annual Financial Report" on LGUs reveals. Today, 67 centavos, out of every local tax peso, comes from IRAs. It was only 40 centavos a decade back.

"An empty purse fills the face with wrinkles." That Spanish proverb describes cash-strapped towns and provinces with run-down facilities. The infusion of IRAs improved decrepit schools, health centers, police equipment, etc. The seedbed for sustained growth remains services and infrastructure.

IRAs still keep poverty-hampered provinces afloat today. Sulu, for example, earns only P13.4 million a year. The income of Pulas, Lanao del Sur barely comes up to P2.01. And Tipo-Tipo in Basilan, where 10 marines were beheaded after a clash with Abu Sayyaf terrorists, got P46,574 in IRA.

Today's IRA "billionaires" include: Pangasinan (P1.1billion) and Cebu (P1.06 billion). City topnotchers list: Quezon (P1.9 billion) and Davao (P1.2 billion). And Dasmariñas town got P233 million. "The rich are unlike the poor," Ernest Hemingway once scoffed. "The rich have more money."

IRAs were cobbled to give the LGUs an elbow room to reinforce their tax base. They were never meant to substitute for local income, a UN study notes. Percentage ratio between local and national governments should start at 50-50. Then, the LGUs should whittle that down to 30 percent.

But precisely the opposite is happening today. Why?

Because our politicians, to borrow the words of Oscar Wilde, "can resist everything but temptation." IRAs are unconditional grants. Since they don't exact performance, they're, in effect, "blank checks." Our politicians can sniff such "temptation" miles away. Thus, many rigged IRAs into mini-pork barrels.

Almost anything under the sun is siphoned from IRAs by local pols: from honoraria, per diems, entertainment, seminars to motorcycles and handguns, etc. The Catholic Bishops Social Action Secretariat flayed the misuse of IRA funds for barangay officials' "observation or exposure trips," i.e., junkets.

In private industry, those who spend three bucks on wages to deliver a peso worth of service or product are fired. But over a five year period, the LGUs spent, on average, 74 centavos out of every tax peso for salaries, COA found.

Even 74 centavos is an undercount. In reality "(personnel service) expenditures are higher than officially reported," say World Bank and Asian Development Bank. Often, the wages of temporary workers are charged against development projects.

Out of every tax peso, 20 centavos are earmarked for the "20 Percent Development Fund." This goes to "unmet basic human needs": potable water, sanitation, preventive health care, nutrition, etc. Instead, it's dissipated for executive bands, luxury cars to air tickets.

A new city can dip into IRAs. In 1990, there were 60 cities. Today, we have 131 of them. Negros Occidental alone has 11. Many flub Republic Act 9009's rule: that they earn P100 million a year. The income of Balanga City is only P1.73 million And now Midsayap, in North Cotabato, seeks a city shingle. Its total operation income: P104,900.

IRAs permit landowning officials to retain obsolete valuation of land—and spare themselves from paying more levies. Land taxes increased by a miniscule 2.8 percent, COA notes. Nationwide, only P12.5 billion was raised from real estate levies. Significantly, tax on idle land shriveled by a staggering 44.4 percent.

The LGUs' handouts from gambling soared by 17.4 percent, COA notes. The Pagcor and Philippine Charity Sweepstakes doled out P140.2 million, up from P119.5 million the previous year. "If a gambler could reform, there'd be a cure for leprosy," the Mexican proverb says.

Nonetheless, Cavite topped in levying and collecting local taxes. Rizal and Makati generated the heftiest net income. The lowest incomes were reported by Apayao and Quirino provinces, and the cities of Silay and Ozamis.

The LGUs should match IRAs with fund counterparts, the UN suggests. "Providing equity to grant" will reverse the slump into doles. "No action, no shekels," urged an Asian Development Bank conference on "Performance Measurement Systems." Link IRA releases to precise "performance criteria" instead of pegging them to static land area and population.

Re-file House Bill 7845. This "sets targets, with specific time frames for achieving them." The LGUs that curb malnutrition, provide safe water, improve health services and expand basic education will be rewarded. Those who flub will be dunned.

Dock from the IRA cash advances that local officials haven't settled. Unliquidated advances now exceed a staggering P1.21 billion. Apply the anti-graft law by prohibiting local officials from dipping into IRAs to pad their honoraria. And report to taxpayers, the Catholic Bishops Social Action Committee adds.

Today's increase in pan-handling for IRA proves that doles, like aphrodisiacs, are habit-forming. But beggars never yet built a country.

(E-mail: juanlmercado@gmail.com)

Renewals

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

FRANKLY, I NEVER THOUGHT I'D SEE the day when Jose de Venecia would call for this country to undertake a "moral revolution." Of course stranger things have happened, but this isn't strange, this is bizarre. What can I say? Right message, wrong messenger.

I wish he'd just go right ahead and impeach the one person who should have been impeached a long time ago instead of making noises remotely related to the word "moral." He'd be doing the country a service with the first, which could go a long way toward soliciting forgiveness from the public, or the consideration thereof. He just elevates his compatriots' blood pressure some more with the second.

Can we forget that he is a direct and generous contributor to the one thing he wants to dispel, which is moral decay? I don't know why he should be complaining that the Pulido complaint is weak. He himself has shown that the chances of an impeachment complaint prospering in his House—or what used to be his, these days not if Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo can help it—have nothing to do with its being strong or weak; they have everything to do with the bribe being high or low. They have nothing to do with the complaint's intrinsic worth, they have everything to do with the congressmen's extrinsic disposition. A disposition that depends on the hero that appears on the face of the bill handed out to them. They have a known preference for Ninoy Aquino.

And certainly, we cannot forget that at the very time this country stood to regain its moral footing, never mind wage a moral revolution, which was when GMA stood to be ousted for the "Hello Garci" scandal, he—along with the once and future (he wishes) president, Fidel Ramos—was there to thwart it.

Can anything be more rotten than the "Hello Garci" tape, as vile a plot as you can find to defile the most sacred of democracy's institutions, which is the vote? Can anything plunge a nation more deeply into a soulless void than an election official proposing to the president that they kidnap a public school teacher to prevent her from talking and the president agreeing to it? Yet Joe de V saw in it no reason to remove a usurper from human sight, he saw in it only a reason to inflict her on this country some more. And he talks of moral revolution?

But though the messenger is wrong, the message is right. We do need moral renewal. Or since even that, not to speak of moral revolution, is already such a big word, we do need to regain our moral bearings. Or since that too is still another big word, we do need to regain our senses, we do need to regain our ability to tell right from wrong. We need that because at no time since the Japanese Occupation and martial law, when we experienced interminable years without God (to paraphrase the title of that movie, "Tatlong Taong Walang Diyos"), have we been plunged into a soulless, purposeless and damned existence.

We are not just morally bankrupt today, we are morally steeped in debt, no more and no less than economically. You know you've reached that point when someone like Lito Atienza feels free to tell you there's nothing wrong with GMA bribing congressmen and governors, it happens all the time. You wonder which is worse, the original crime, or the effort to pass it off as being as natural as a baby's smile.

Right now, we need moral recovery far more than economic recovery. That is so not just because we lack the first more than the second but because without the first we won't have the second. Without moral recovery, we won't have economic recovery, we'll just have more lies. The kind where, as in Marcos' time, we are told that contrary to what we feel, we are not hungry, we are overfed.

Happily even as Joe de V was talking about moral renewal, others were already busy sparking it. Like I said last week, for the first time in many years, I've finally become a little more optimistic—chief of the reasons for it being that resplendent act of Ed Panlilio of exposing Malacañang's effort to bribe him with half a million pesos, a blast of fresh air in a poisonous mine, a blinding shaft of good in the pitch dark of evil. Soon afterward the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines came out fulminating against the disappearance of moral scruple in government, a giant stride from the days when some of its senior members wanted to know what was wrong with GMA cheating in elections when, as one archbishop put it, "everybody cheats anyway." Truly, you had to wonder not just what had happened to the guardians of this nation's body but of its soul. Thank God he sent that "archangel" Lagdameo to cast the fallen *kapal* angels to the dark pit with a fiery sword.

Still soon afterward, representatives of Big Business came out to demand an investigation of the bribe. Even Donald Duck was compelled to makes noises to that effect, probably figuring it wasn't good business for Big Business to keep demonstrating Big was Blind, it was business as usual in the funeral parlor. And still soon afterward, Bishops Antonio Tobias, Deogracias Iñiguez and Julio Labayen, and Sen. Aquilino Pimentel called for GMA to step down on grounds of moral turpitude.

And just as I was wondering if we still had a capacity to reach a threshold and say, "*Tama na, sobra na.*" And just as I was wondering why we get so incensed that Teri Hatcher should put the competence of our doctors in doubt before the world in a sitcom when we get docile that GMA should hold up the reputation of the Filipino to scorn before the world in real life. Which is worse, Hatcher's quip or GMA's insistence at the UN that her government does not tolerate human rights abuses? The first depicts Filipino doctors as misfits, the second depicts the Filipino as a natural-born liar.

But you can sense it, the times they are a-changin'. What can I say? I'm beginning to feel renewed.

Let's wait for investigation to wind up

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

UP TO NOW THE POLICE DO NOT KNOW FOR certain what caused the deadly blast in the Glorietta Mall. Experts from the United States and Australia have arrived to help out and the task force should soon be able to tell whether the explosion was caused by bombs or by an accident. Pending the conclusion of the investigations, it behooves all of us to suspend judgment on what and who caused the blast. Recall that even in the New York, London and Madrid bombings, it took police authorities weeks to establish conclusive evidence.

* * *

The opposition has insinuated that the government caused the blast to divert public attention away from the controversies hounding it. Utterly irresponsible. Sens. Antonio Trillanes and Panfilo Lacson also said that the AFP chief, Gen. Hermogenes Esperon, and the military were behind it; their recklessness is totally unworthy of members of the Senate. By the way, Trillanes now appears so concerned about the damage to lives and prosperity wrought by the Glorietta blast; but when he and his cohorts wired Oakwood, they didn't worry that the whole Makati commercial center could have gone up in flames in an open confrontation with police. Thank God that tragedy was averted.

* * *

With all the controversies hounding her administration, a few civil society leaders and the three bishops, who have always opposed President Macapagal-Arroyo, are now asking for her resignation. This is idle talk, for this woman is one tough cookie and it's easy to see that resignation is not in her vocabulary. The opposition led by the Estrada camp has always been intent on ousting her and restoring its old glory, and sadly some nincompoops in GMA's administration have helped them with their mindless actuations. (Perhaps these Palace officials should resign to spare GMA from firing them.)

But working for GMA are several factors. For one thing, in just two years the campaign season for the 2010 elections will start and this early, all those who want to succeed her have already shifted to high gear. With just two years to go, we should allow GMA to finish the many projects she started and pressure her for much-needed reforms, such as a truly credible Comelec and full automation. All these without prejudice to punishing wrongdoing.

* * *

Ousting GMA now would produce chaos and even civil war, as many in the opposition would never countenance Vice President Noli de Castro as head of state, and each of the various opposition groups has its own formula for leadership after GMA. For instance, Sen. Aquilino Pimentel shocked people with his arrogance when he recently asked people to force GMA to resign and "*tiisin na lang natin si Noli hanggang 2010.*" But I doubt if "presidentiables" Manuel Villar, Mar Roxas, Richard Gordon and Panfilo Lacson would want to contend with a president who can "run again," just like GMA. Then too, there are the usual malcontents in the Makati Business Club, but majority of the businessmen have enjoyed the fruits of 27 quarters of unimpeded economic progress under GMA and don't want the status quo disturbed. In fact, tomorrow, heads of several big companies in the electronics sector will speak at a Makati forum on why they have stayed and invested in this country. Also backing up GMA are the local government officials and majority of the congressmen.

There are also those pressuring the bishops to lead the call for GMA's resignation. Let's pray they refuse to become tools of vested interests and realize that ousting GMA would only worsen the problems of the country. The prelates can devote their energies best to pressing the government for serious reforms. I can't resist pointing out, too, that had they supported Charter change, which provided a peaceful solution to the problem of a head of state under fire, we wouldn't have this kind of problem today.

* * *

Reports of the worsening rift between staunch allies GMA and Speaker Jose de Venecia have alarmed many citizens who feel that the two leaders, who had worked together so well for so long, should set aside their personal hurts and stay together for the sake of the country. I got a call from a civil society leader who had worked hard during the first impeachment move to gather the signatures of 600 women leaders to reject GMA's ouster. She lamented the rift between the two leaders. Then too, Gov. Sally Perez, chair of the Region VI League of Governors, called up recently to stress that the governors are one in calling for the preservation of the ruling coalition. Ranking House leaders are also protesting having to choose between JDV and GMA; as Majority Leader Arthur Defensor put it, "For us, it's not GMA or JDV; its GMA AND JDV." Or as Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman put it, "we'll all be fallen warriors if this split happens." Another JDV ally, Rep. Victor Agbayani, also feel the he can best work on reforms if he has the clout to do so.

* * *

Reacting to all these pressures to preserve their unity, both GMA and JDV reportedly met last Saturday evening at the Palace to talk. JDV reportedly submitted to her a six-page letter containing concrete proposals to curb corruption in government and effect better governance. Among the government agencies he proposed to clean up was the House itself. Reports said that nothing concrete came out of that meeting, but I think we can be sure that the proposals are being given serious thought by the recipient. JDV's most interesting proposal, to my mind, is the formation of a "National Council for Renewal" composed of a dozen "wise men" drawn from various sectors of society, who could help the President run the government. JDV had proposed a similar council about two years ago, in the wake of the impeachment crisis, but nothing came of it. In the light of the current crisis, it could be given more serious consideration.

Misery as policy

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

IN 2000, FORMER MANILA MAYOR LITO ATIENZA (now environment and natural resources secretary) signed Executive Order 003, which declared that "the City promotes responsible parenthood and upholds natural family planning not just as a method but as a way of self-awareness in promoting the culture of life while discouraging the use of artificial methods of contraception like condoms, pills, intrauterine devices, surgical sterilization, and other."

While the order only "discouraged" the use of so-called artificial contraceptives, in practice, it resulted in the disappearance of pills, condoms, IUDs, and the like from all city health centers. Without warning, women who had been accessing free or low cost contraceptives and services from their neighborhood health centers found that these centers no longer carried these supplies, and when they asked where they could get them, they were referred to hospitals managed by the national government and to private clinics and drugstores.

In time, even these referrals were discouraged, and doctors who gave information to women in need were harassed and monitored. Even health workers in clinics run by NGOs were harassed by barangay officials, and when they tried to renew their permits (sanitary or business), they were refused. Mayor Atienza even reportedly talked with the owners of drug stores, asking them not to stock contraceptive supplies.

Horrifying as this situation was, it was even made worse by the city government's negligence of its stated goal of "upholding natural family planning." Health officials tasked with monitoring NFP promotion activities found NFP use "very low" in Manila, with one doctor in a DOH-administered hospital claiming that "even NFP isn't being pushed that hard. Because they don't want to space … they don't want to limit the number of children a family has…" Indeed, this is borne out by a practice adopted by Atienza during his term, giving out monetary rewards to women with big families. "The more children you have, the more money you get," observed a mother from Baseco.

* * *

MANILA'S "contraceptive ban" was the talk of reproductive health circles in all the years of Atienza's rule. But it was difficult to build a case against the mayor mainly because officials denied there was any policy, and the EO was enforced largely through intimidation. Then, too, the national government, especially the Department of Health which had been tasked to oversee the implementation of the family planning program, chose to ignore the consequences of the EO, citing local government autonomy.

Only recently, and only after Alfredo "Dirty Harry" Lim's takeover of Manila City Hall, have the consequences of the "ban" been documented in detail. "Imposing Misery," a study conducted by the Linangan ng Kababaihan Inc. (Likhaan), the Reproductive Health, Rights and Ethics Center for Studies and Training (ReproCen), and the Center for Reproductive Rights, examines the impact of EO 003 not just on policy or programs, but more importantly, on the lives of the poor women of Manila. As their testimonies detail, their lives, circumscribed by poverty, poor health, and vulnerability to abuse, were made only more difficult, if not dangerous, by the sudden withdrawal of reproductive health services with a single stroke of their mayor's pen.

As interviews with women in San Andres Bukid revealed, free contraceptives and low-cost ligation and other services were not luxuries they enjoyed, but necessities they relied upon for survival. They knew another pregnancy and another child could—and usually did—tip the balance for their families from barely getting by to total desperation. One woman said she could barely afford the P35 for a packet of pills, and would borrow money from neighbors as the end of the month approached. When the women refused to have sex with their husbands or partners for fear of pregnancy, they were shamed or beaten or abandoned by their men. And they could only watch with sadness as their children fell sick, left school, or died.

And with each pregnancy, they feared for their lives. As one woman recounted: "I get nervous with every pregnancy. I think that the moment I give birth will be the time I will die."

* * *

THE STORIES of the women literally accompanied me on this trip to London, as I brought a copy of "Imposing Misery" to read on the flight. And as the speeches and presentations at the "Women Deliver" conference so strongly pointed out, the road to the survival of women and their infants begins with giving women choices.

We don't save the lives of mothers just in the delivery room, or in a doctor's clinic. We save them in the classroom, as it has been shown that an education greatly improves a woman's chances of survival. We save them in the workplace, since being economically productive gives a woman self-respect as well as the capacity (and power) to plan her life. We save them at home, within the family, since a supportive spouse can greatly improve a woman's chances of surviving pregnancy and childbirth. We save them in the streets, in the halls of legislatures, and in policy-making chambers, for it is the decisions made on spending and priorities that can focus health systems on the "core program" of maternal mortality.

Maternal mortality, said Thoraya Obaid, executive director of UNFPA, is the "litmus test" of any health program. If the health systems of a country cannot save the lives of mothers and newborns, it's doubtful whether they can save the lives of the rest of the population, too. But what can we say of a political system that not only ignores the health and safety of women, but actually puts them in greater danger? What can we say of a government that has made a policy of "imposing misery" on its women?

Losing trust in Gloria

NEWSSTAND

John Nery

IT BEWILDERS ME WHEN EVEN PRAGMATIC businessmen like Babe Romualdez describe Sen. Panfilo Lacson as President Macapagal-Arroyo's "archenemy." This is a misreading of the situation that flatters Lacson but undermines the efforts of the loyal opposition.

That he is on the opposite side of wherever it is President Arroyo finds herself is almost a given. But archenemy? That sounds almost like he is to Ms Arroyo what Ninoy Aquino was to Ferdinand Marcos.

But Aquino worked closely with Gerry Roxas and Jovy Salonga and Pepe Diokno and the old man Tañada (the only person, incidentally, to be elected to the postwar Senate five consecutive times). I cannot think of a single senator today who seems less disposed to work with other opposition senators than Lacson. (Begin by watching his body language on the Senate floor.)

The enmity between Aquino and Marcos was also real; perhaps there too is bad blood between Lacson and Ms Arroyo, but I remember the first time she visited the INQUIRER after she assumed the presidency. It was December 2001. At convivial cocktails (those were the days), editors and reporters took turns sitting across from her and firing questions. When it was my turn, I asked her about the palpable animosity between Lacson, Joseph Estrada's favorite policeman, and her spokesman and confidant, Bobi Tiglao (now the ambassador to Greece). Did her spokesman reflect her own attitude to (at that time) the newly elected senator?

I was struck by her answer: "I think Bobi is more hawkish about Ping than I am."

* * *

To be sure, a lot of water has since passed under the proverbial bridge. For those who spend much of their time imagining an alternative ending to Fernando Poe Jr.'s presidential candidacy in 2004, however, those waters are decidedly murky. Poe's supporters see Lacson as the spoiler, the illegitimate candidate who split the opposition. How many of the three million votes he received would have gone to FPJ, they continue to wonder.

It must be admitted, however: Since entering the Senate, Lacson has created a popular reputation for damaging exposés. In no small measure, he is responsible for the President's low opinion ratings. But as I have written before, Lacson's impact is felt through his influence in media, not his work in legislation or in organizing the opposition. He is merely the gatekeeper of secrets about to be revealed in Senate hearings, the dark angel hovering over the tracks of the First Gentleman, the overflowing source of anti-Arroyo statements. (Other senators envy his access to various media organizations.)

In "The Image," Daniel Boorstin defined celebrity in the modern era as the state of being well-known; a celebrity is someone known for being known. That makes sense to me: Lacson is the anti-Gloria celebrity.

* * *

Does that mean he is the anti-Gloria leader, the fulcrum of the opposition? If Speaker Jose de Venecia met with him last August under that misimpression, then there is no help for the gentleman from Pangasinan. He will be replaced when session resumes next month.

* * *

The widespread belief that the Arroyo administration, or rogue elements in it, could be behind the Oct. 19 explosion in Glorietta offers more proof—if more proof were needed—that Malacañang has lost the public's trust.

Is it possible, not merely to quantify, but to "monetize," this loss of trust?

"Where is the Wealth of All Nations?," the landmark World Bank study, offers a general answer.

* * *

Let me quote at length from the start of Chapter 7: "The wealth estimates show that in most countries produced and natural capital account for a small fraction [only 22 percent, in the Philippines] of total wealth. Most of a country's wealth is captured by what we called intangible capital. But what does intangible capital stand for in the wealth estimates? By construction, it captures all those assets that are unaccounted for in the wealth estimates. It then includes assets, referred to as human capital, such as the skills and know-how embodied in the labor force. It also encompasses social capital, that is, the amount of trust among people in a society and their ability to work together for common purposes. Finally, it includes those governance elements that boost the productivity of the economy. For example, if an economy has a very efficient judicial system, clear property rights, and an effective government, the effects will be a higher total wealth and thus, an increase in the intangible capital residual."

Got that? I didn't either, not in the first two or three passes. (It explains why the country's GDP is half that of Singapore while its total wealth is only a tenth of that of the tiny city-state.) But a companion study issued by the World Bank, "Ensuring Environmental Sustainability," contains a sidebar that makes it possible for non-economists like us to appreciate the possibilities. All told, the other study concludes, "three factors account for 89 percent of intangible wealth." That would be the rule of law, education and remittances.

The clincher: "A one-point increase in the rule of law index (on a 100-point scale) boosts total wealth by over $100 in low-income countries, over $400 in middle-income countries, and nearly $3,000 in high-income countries."

Conversely? Conversely we would have to do our own math. But perhaps the resulting numbers can help make the case even economists—like, say, President Arroyo—can understand. Loss of trust in public institutions and the rule of law is costing us real money.

* * *

Email: jnery@inquirer.com.ph

Kenneth

YOUNG BLOOD

Mary Clarissa Joy David

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

I RARELY SEE MY COUSIN KENNETH THESE DAYS, A price we both have to pay since becoming full-fledged adults. I find it highly unusual from what we've gotten used to, back in the mid-'80s, when we would both be together almost 24/7, when our houses were only a stone's throw away from one another. I do miss our growing-up years in that rusty apartment compound of Aling Felarca in the middle of the city of stars, where we played the same outdoor games, shared the same *merienda*, attended the same school, rode the same PUVs.

Being two years older, I was his *Ate*, his idol, and he was my dutiful sidekick. He would follow me around, mimic the things I did, and get hold of the same things I had. When we played with other kids in the neighborhood, he would always join the same team I was in. He would watch with delight whenever I opened my *pasalubong* from my father, as if he were the one who got them. The two of us would split it if it was food, or play with it right away if it was a new toy.

Each time he got reprimanded by his *tatay*, he would run to our house sobbing softly, murmuring that he didn't want to go home anymore. We would shush him by narrating our make-believe story, that we were his real family and that he was just given away to his *tatay* and mama when he was a baby because they didn't have a child of their own. The gullible kid that he was, he would believe our story and eventually stop crying. Then we were back to our normal "child-mode," watching cartoons on the tube or the "Rainbow Brite" and "Swiss Family Robinson" betamax tapes we had back then.

For 10 years, we were inseparable. But as the song goes, some good things never really last. Our family was the first to leave the place we grew up in and move to our very own new house in the southern metropolitan area; Kenneth's family later relocated way up north.

Despite the considerable distance that kept us physically apart, our closeness remained, the unspoken bond between us growing stronger than ever. We got to see each other regularly though we were already living in the opposite sides of the metropolis. He would pay us a visit during annual school vacations, special occasions or on weekends if his schedule permitted. In many of those instances, he would stay over for the night, updating me on the latest rumors about our former landlady and childhood friends. We always had a blast laughing at and reminiscing the good old days.

But during college, our timetables became so erratic that his weekend visits became more and more infrequent. We would just talk over the phone to catch up on each other's lives, sometimes for hours. Thank goodness for cellular phones. Ever since these gadgets became trendy, he would send me lots of text messages. Aside from pestering me with his chain texts and jokes, once in a while he would ask me how I've been, who's my current fling and other messages that would remind me of the same old Kenneth I've been fond of, the same old cousin who still cares a lot.

Toot-toot. Toot-toot. Message received.

Speaking of the imp.

"*S haus u? anu gwa u? punta me jan nw n.*" (What're you doing? Going there now.)

It did slip out of my mind that he was this type of texter. If he were not my favorite cousin, I wouldn't have tolerated his text messages. But he was Kenneth. So I texted back. "*Nag aayos ng mga gamit. Punta ka na dito.*" (Packing my things. Come over.)

"*Cguro mttglan u mgayos kc dmi mo abubot. Dmi mo gmit. tpon mo n kc mga yn!*" (It might take you long because of your many fripperies, it's time you get rid of them.)

"*Dami mo pa satsat. Pag di ka pa pumunta dito, alis na ko.*" (Whatever. Come over, or else I'm gonna leave.)

"*Sbi nga mama lena alis n dw u. Sma mo n kc me.*" (Mama Lena says you're leaving. You should drag me along.)

"*Kung pwede lang ba kita isama bakit hindi. Bakit ba kasi d ka tulungan ng mayaman mong tita na nasa* Canada. *D hamak na maganda dun.*"

(If only I could, why not. Why is it that your rich aunt in Canada doesn't help you. It's a much better place out there.)

"*Lam u n. D n me mgslita.*" (You already know why. No comment there.)

He was as reticent as before. (He did let me know of some secrets—once in a while. But when it came to personal details about himself, he has been restrained most of the time. I guess that's why we got along so well. We would only tell each other whatever we thought or felt when we felt like saying it. Still, I am overjoyed knowing that I am one of those people he's comfortable sharing his inner thoughts and feelings with.) I made him confess anyway. He got himself to admit how his aunt already helped his younger cousins to get lucrative jobs, but not him. I felt sorry for him, knowing that he and his parents had helped their whole clan in all ways imaginable. In any case, I still advised him not to hold grudges and just prove to all of them that he could make it big even without their help.

"*Lam me n, mit tau s MOA, 2tal d p u kta ninang u.*" (I know. Let's meet at Mall of Asia, anyway you haven't met your godmother.)

"*Call. Kita na lang tayo dun sa saberdey. Tagal na natin di nagdadramahan. Echos.*" (Okay)

We decided to meet the following weekend; he was with his mom, his youngest and oldest aunts. The oldest aunt, his rich Canadian *tita*, happens to be my godmother. So I had my parents in tow so we could all meet my *ninang* after so many years.

There was Kenneth, easily recognizable in a throng of people. All it took was one eye contact and there we were, knowingly making fun of each other.

While we were waiting for a delectable feast at Aristocrat, Canadian *tita/ninang* remarked, "*Itong dalawang ito, talaga di na nagbago. Talagang ever since, magkasundo sila, laging magkasama, talagang parang* best friends." (These two, really, they haven't changed. Ever since, always together, like best friends.)

Ninang was harking back to 20 years ago. A lot of things have happened since then, yet when I look at us, I don't think we've changed. Yes, he may have grown taller and he may be sporting a mustache now, and I may have added more flab here and there and become more insane, but I'm certain that I will always be his *Ate* his idol, and he will be my ever reliable sidekick.

Kenneth may be thoughtless and insensitive every so often, but I still love him just the same.

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Jpepa is more than WTO

I WRITE IN REACTION TO SOLITA Monsod's Oct. 13 column which questioned retired Supreme Court Justice Florentino Feliciano's legal analysis of the Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement (Jpepa).

If there is any person in the world who is in the best position to comment authoritatively on the World Trade Organization and economic partnership agreements such as the Jpepa, it is Justice Feliciano, who was chairman of the Appellate Body (akin to the judicial arm) of the WTO and whose decisions are required reading in international trade law classes around the world. Justice Feliciano is regarded with much respect, if not reverence and awe, by international law and trade and economic law scholars and experts from Washington, D.C. to Geneva. Monsod, as an academic is, at the very least, expected to accord professional respect to fellow academics, especially in areas where she has no expertise whatsoever.

Jpepa is not the WTO all over again. It is WTO-plus: it includes matters such as investments, competition policy, government procurement, trade facilitation and cooperation—matters which developing countries in the WTO have successfully defended from foreign incursion. Through the Jpepa, Japanese economic interest insinuates itself into Filipino policy-making, something attempted but not achieved in the WTO; yet being handed to Japan on a silver platter.

Monsod is likewise wrong in her assertions that the reservations in Annex 6 (which deals with services) can compensate for the lack thereof in Annex 7 (which deals with investments). Our negotiators have allowed a situation wherein Japanese investors can cleverly take advantage of the loopholes in Annex 7 to circumvent the provisions in Annex 6. The loopholes open up the possibility of litigation and arbitration, which is very time-consuming, expensive and counter-productive. Even at the level of the WTO, international law experts have expressed serious concerns about overloading the dispute settlement mechanism with disputes that could and should have been resolved at the earliest instance, e.g., during treaty negotiations or treaty-drafting. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure, a principle that holds true whether it is in health, litigation or economics. That Monsod should actually encourage a situation, where negotiators or the Senate should defer resolving legal ambiguities and instead throw it to the courts, flies in the face of sound economics, if not plain common sense.

Also, the agreement has opened up the possibility that future policies and legislation undertaken by both local and national governments will be shot down by Japanese investors, who may claim that these measures violate the terms of their investment agreement with the Philippines.

For as long as the input of legal experts such as Justice Feliciano is disregarded, we can only expect the Jpepa controversy to play itself out ad infinitum in trade agreements to come.

—TANYA LAT,
fellow, Institute of International Economic Law,
Georgetown University Law Center,
Washington, D.C.

Public officials beyond contempt

THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT and Natural Resources and all other officials who allowed mining operations in Sibuyan (worse, allowed the operations to continue in spite of the killing of Councilor Armin Marin) are beyond contempt. ("DENR can't stop Sibuyan mining firm," INQUIRER, 10/9/07) And the governor and public officials involved should all be thrown out of their offices. They all acted in total disregard of the wish of the island's residents who were never given any say on the matter.

What happens now to the call by Sens. Loren Legarda and Francis Pangilinan for an investigation of Marin's killing?

And what about the absentee mayor of San Fernando? She ran with the promise to stop mining in Sibuyan; but once in office, she reversed her stand. What is she doing now? Why doesn't she face the people who feel betrayed because of her broken promise? How many more lives must be sacrificed before mining is stopped in Sibuyan.

We vow that Marin's death will never be in vain.

—MELE ILAN,
ilanmele@aol.com

Region 6 DepEd responded ASAP

THE FINDINGS OF THE COMMISSION on Audit (COA) regarding the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) products, computers and instructional materials [in Region 6] ("COA finds P329-M textbooks unused," INQUIRER, 10/10/07) was discussed by the COA resident auditor with me during the annual exit conference and the same was acted on immediately.

School principals/officials who were reported using the ICT packages for administrative purposes were instructed to return the computers to the laboratory for use in student instruction. The concerned principals have complied with the directive. The computers that were found to be defective were replaced by the suppliers within the warranty period. Suppliers are only paid upon compliance with all the conditions set forth in the package including the training for teachers.

Since 2005, a proper monitoring scheme has been in place to ensure that the ICT package will be used for the best interest of the schoolchildren.

—VICTORIANO B. TIROL JR.,
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Duran Street, Iloilo City

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Senators prodded, probe CARP too

WE COMMEND OUR SENATORS FOR their steely resolve to uncover the mystery that is the National Broadband Network. The whole country has the right to know all the details surrounding this issue. We must prosecute all the people who benefited from this project. Our quest for the truth must not stop with the resignation of Comelec Chairman Benjamin Abalos.

While we support the current senatorial inquiry into the matter, we call on our senators to also look into the status of the 19-year-old Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program. Millions of small farmers across the country are still waiting for their "promised" land.

Ten years ago this month, 17 lumad-farmers from Sumilao, Bukidnon staged a hunger strike in front of the Department of Agrarian Reform in Quezon City. Their call then was—and still is—the redistribution of their ancestral land (144 hectares).

Many things have happened since their 28-day hunger strike in 1997. Former President Ramos' much vaunted "win-win" formula came to naught when the Supreme Court decided to uphold the conversion order of then-Executive Secretary Ruben Torres. Meanwhile, the Norberto Quisumbing Sr. Management and Development Corp. sold the land to San Miguel Food, which is now putting up a piggery farm in that land—clearly a violation of the conversion order.

In spite of these setbacks, the Sumilao farmers remain steadfast and still believe that, one day, they will be able to reclaim their ancestral land. They have now filed a petition for the cancellation of the conversion order before the Office of the Secretary, DAR.

The story of the lumad-farmers of Sumilao is a reflection of the state of agrarian reform in our country. It demonstrates how little our government's commitment is to agrarian reform justice. The concentration of land and power in the hands of the elite and the discrimination against our indigenous people have resulted in the decline of the quality of life in our rural communities and in the perpetuation of the never-ending cycle of poverty and hunger among millions of Filipinos.

While tales of unbridled corruption and endless scandals titillate the imagination of our people, the painful spectacle of seeing our leaders fight over who gets to be in the limelight leaves a very bad taste in our hungry mouths. It is our hope that our leaders, while steadfastly pursuing the ZTE issue to its just conclusion in favor of the people, will not forget that there are other pressing concerns that need to be attended to—among them, agrarian reform. We request them to help us in restoring social justice not only by fighting corruption but also through the equitable distribution of land.

—RAUL SOCRATES BANZUELA,
national coordinator,
Pambansang Kilusan ng mga Samahang Magsasaka (Pakisama),
Partnership Center,
59 Salavador St.,
Loyola Heights, Quezon City

Culture of secrecy trumps accountability

THE PUBLIC HAS THE RIGHT TO KNOW the truth.

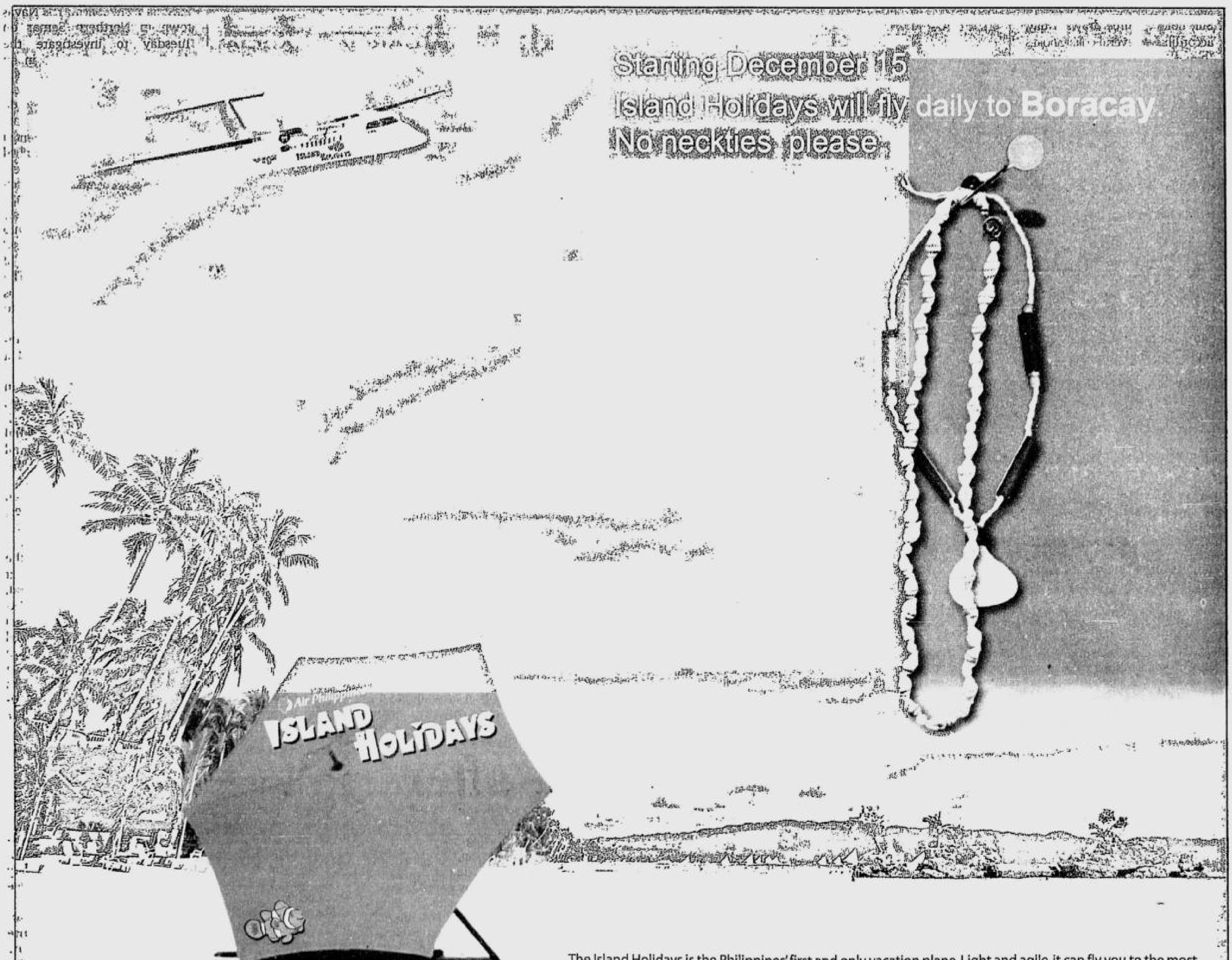
This refers to the two meetings held in Malacañang, which were reportedly followed by the distribution of envelopes. The question is no longer, "Was there actual 'payoff' in the Palace?" It is, "Who is telling the truth?" and "Why can't others (those who were in the meetings) not say a word about it?"

If money were indeed distributed by Malacañang officials and it was just a "Christmas gift" or some form of help, what's the point of denying that the distribution did take place; that somebody did give out money and some people did receive some?

Public officials—more than anybody else—are accountable to the public. It is their duty to explain their conduct and to be open to criticism. Unfortunately, a culture of secrecy has trumped the public's right to scrutinize the conduct of public officials.

What we need today is a transparent government. The public has heard public officials admitting to lapse in judgment, etc. But it has not heard enough. In a democracy, the people have the right to right information, especially on government affairs.

—MARIA VICTORIA R. ALDOVINO,
ry_zuth@yahoo.com



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GIs back among Aetas for war games

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

CAPAS, TARLAC—"*Maragul la saup* (Their help is big)," said Aeta elder Pedro Gutierrez, referring to the dozen or so American military doctors and other medical personnel who treated his granddaughter, Mona Lisa, for dehydration on Sunday.

Fixing the dextrose attached to the 6-year-old girl's right hand, Gutierrez glowed with admiration for the guests who have set up camp far down his village of Sta. Juliana since Wednesday.

"*Bala mu kapatad me na la rin* (They are like kin to us already)," he said.

Gutierrez's acceptance of US troops right in their midst is echoed by Capas Mayor Reynaldo Catacutan.

Blessings

"Blessings come to us whenever Talon Vision and Balikatan (exercises) are held here," Catacutan said, referring to the yearly war games that resumed in 1999 under the RP-US Visiting Forces Agreement.

"We have a midwife and a health center, but our medicines are not enough for everyone. The Americans bring supplies when they are around," he said.

The supplies went to the two-day medical and dental missions that have helped some 1,000 people, mostly Aeta, said US Navy Lt. Ayessa Toler.

Toler, who was born in the Philippines, is the medical planner of the missions for this village of about 6,000 people, half of them Aeta.

Construction work

At the other end of the Sta. Juliana School Compound, US Marines and Philippine Air Force men are replacing the rusty roofs of a classroom for elementary pupils.

By Oct. 27, when the 15-day Amphibious Landing Exercise (Phiblex) would have ended, the US Marines would have finished repainting at least 16 classrooms and repaired the roofs of six others, Catacutan said.

"More than 800 elementary and high school students are going to benefit from these community projects," he said.

LT. COL. Scott Erdelatz, commanding officer of the US Marines' Combat Logistics Battalion 31, takes time out to play with these boys in Sta. Juliana, Capas, Tarlac, venue of the Amphibious Landing Exercise.

TONETTE T. OREJAS/INQUIRER CENTRAL LUZON

"Last year, they built four new classrooms in Maruglo," he said. That Aeta village is six kilometers km west of Mt. Pinatubo.

Col. John Mayer, commanding officer of the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) and Phiblex co-director, said the US military was spending $100,000 for the outreach programs in villages around Fort Magsaysay in Nueva Ecija and in Laguna.

Materials for these projects were bought in the localities, he said. "That's one way of helping the local economy," he said.

No large-scale medical and dental missions are held here except when the Americans come around, the mayor said.

"*Tulungan 'to* (This is helping each other)," he said, pointing to exercise site provided by the government and the training that Filipino soldiers get in return.

Their presence does not intimidate Gutierrez a bit. "They used to be around here before Mt. Pinatubo erupted (in 1991)," he said.

Some Aeta used to make bamboo replicas of helicopters used for target bombing or earn money from selling the metal scraps of spent bullets and bombs.

"I used to earn a sack of rice when I helped make replicas back then," Gutierrez said.

He said the Americans gave them the privilege of getting medical treatment at the hospital in the former Clark Air Base.

Lt. Col. Scott Erdelatz, commanding officer of the Combat Logistics Battalion 31 of the 31st MEU, said that while it was "great" that the Sta. Juliana villagers regarded US troops as a big brother, "what I think as the better perception should be is that we are helping alongside the AFP."

There's no stopping 'jueteng' in Camarines

NAGA CITY—"JUETENG" OPERates with impunity in Camarines Sur, holding three draws a day, according to several CORREADORES (bet collectors).

Senior Supt. Romeo Tambungui, police provincial director, said he was having a hard time stopping the illegal numbers game, even after issuing "countless written and verbal orders" to the municipal police chiefs.

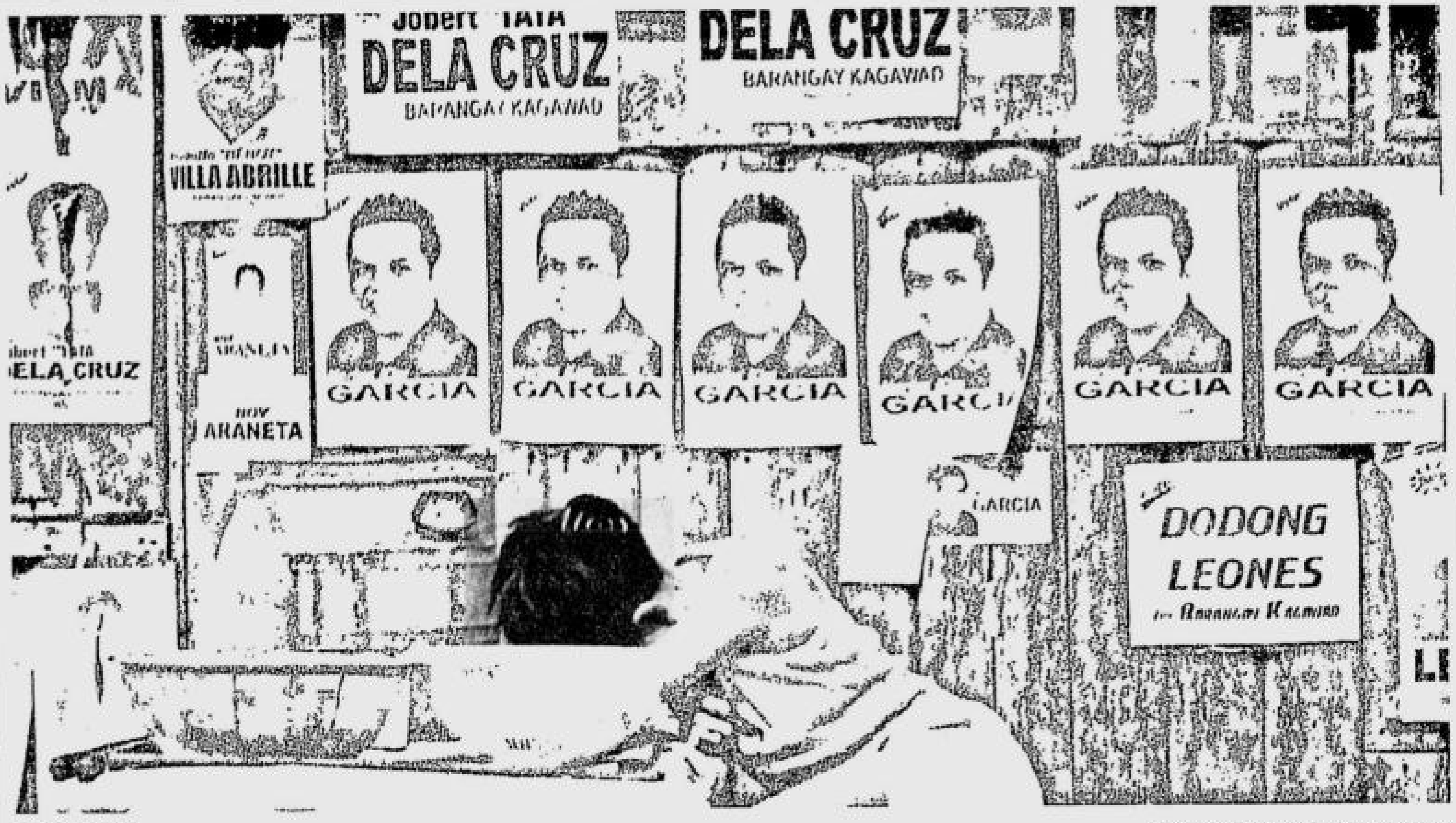
Gov. Luis Raymund "LRay" Villafuerte, Naga Mayor Jesse Robredo, the provincial and city boards had earlier asked police authorities to stop jueteng.

The draws are held in the towns of Buhi, Bato, Nabua, Goa, San Jose, Canaman, Magarao, Cabusao, Pasacao, Del Gallego and Ragay, Tambungui told the INQUIRER. According to the bet collectors, who asked not to be named because of their involvement in illegal gambling, the draws are held at 7:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m., and 5:30 p.m.

Tambungui said he conducted several joint missions against "jueteng" operators with the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, which resulted in the filing of cases against several persons.

But he said several "powerful personalities" in the province were now after him because many jueteng beneficiaries had complained that they could no longer send their children to school.

"The jueteng operators are very mad at me. They will be losing millions of pesos," Tambungui said. "Everybody wants me relieved so they could conduct full-blast jueteng operations." *Juan Escandor Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon*



HO HUM

While elections for barangay officials were described by authorities as one of the most hotly contested because of the close relationships between candidates and voters, this woman seems not to mind the posters of village election candidates on Magallanes Street in Davao City.

DENNIS JAY SANTOS/INQUIRER MINDANAO

Fish cages return to Batangas after 5 yrs

By Marlon Alexander Luistro
Inquirer Southern Luzon

SAN NICOLAS, BATANGAS—Illegally built fish cages are back in the Pansipit River, a protected area, after five years, choking a key passageway of the endemic *maliputo* fish from Balayan Bay to their breeding ground in Taal Lake.

"We cannot stop the people (from constructing fish cages) since the river has long been empty (of cages) and we have to utilize its resources," said Pablo Inumerable, barangay chair of Pansipit.

At least 120 fish cages have been put up off San Nicolas and Agoncillo towns, according to Pusod Inc., an environmental nongovernment organization, which conducted a biodiversity monitoring system in the river on Oct. 11. The INQUIRER, which accompanied the group, even witnessed men building the cages and *salambaw*, another bamboo facility used to catch fish.

Boats can only pass through the middle portion of Pansipit because both sides are already occupied by the cages.

In 2002, the provincial government dismantled 623 fish cages in Pansipit. A village official, who declined to be identified because of his sensitive position in the community, confirmed that some residents had begun building the cages because they had no other source of livelihood.

One caretaker said the cages could yield at least P15,000 worth of cultured *tilapia*, which can be harvested in four months. Half of the revenues go to the financier, he said.

Obstructions

Leah Villanueva, chief of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources–Inland Fisheries Research Station, has warned against placing aquaculture facilities at Pansipit because these impede water flow and block the *maliputo*'s path to the lake.

The Philippine Fisheries Code prohibits the placement of fish cages, fish pens and other aquaculture facilities in the country's water bodies without a license or permit. Obstructing navigation or flow of the tide is also prohibited under the law.

Inumerable admitted that the cages did not have barangay permits.

"It is prohibited to build cages because the river is part of the protected area and it is the lifeblood of Taal Lake. We definitely cannot allow that," Maximo Soriano, provincial environment and natural resources officer, said in a phone interview.

Gov't vets sent to Samar town to probe carabao deaths

TACLOBAN CITY—FOR THE third time, government veterinarians were sent to Las Navas town in Northern Samar on Tuesday to investigate the deaths of 138 carabaos in an outbreak of *hemorrhagic septicemia*, a bacterial disease.

Wilson A. Cerbito, technical director for research and development of the regional Department of Agriculture office here, described the animal deaths in the town's seven villages as "alarming." He estimated the losses at P2.75 million.

Hemorrhagic septicemia usually strikes on carabaos when they are overworked or "exposed to stress" and during sudden change of weather and heavy rainfall. The "opportunist microorganism" is contagious to animals but not to humans, Cerbito said.

The disease is endemic in Northern Samar, which experienced a similar outbreak in 1994, he said.

An outbreak was declared in Las Navas on Oct. 8 after it was confirmed by a team of veterinarians sent by the Regional Advisory Council on Animal Disease Control and Emergency, as well as laboratory tests.

Cerbito identified the seven affected villages as Lourdes, Bugtosan, Bugay, Geguinta, Lumalaog, Ribong and Robis.

On Oct. 4-6 and Oct. 9-12, the team treated 403 carabaos, but four of the animals had died. The team was composed of veterinarians from the DA regional office, Office of the Provincial Veterinarians in Northern Samar, and the University of Eastern Philippines based in Catarman, Northern Samar. *Vicente S. Labro, Inquirer Visayas*

Iloilo execs endorse coal plants after trip to Taiwan

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—RETURNING from a controversial Taiwan trip sponsored by proponents of a local coal plant project, city officials are now urging residents to be open to such "clean and safe" source of energy.

Vice Mayor Jed Patrick Mabilog and seven city councilors said any source of energy should be acceptable "as long as it is a private investment that adheres to and promotes strict environmental conformity."

While the officials said their report to Interior Undersecretary Austere Panadero should not be considered a technical opinion, they noted the cleanliness and safety of coal plants, and the "state-of-the-art pollution abatement systems" of three plants they visited in Taiwan on Oct. 12-14.

Joining Mabilog in the trip were Councilors Lyndon Acap, Julienne Baronda, Jose Espinosa III, Ely Estante Jr., Marietta Orleans, Nielex Tupas and Eduardo Peñaredondo.

The officials visited the Zin Shin plant and noted its location near commercial and residential areas, "surrounded by healthy trees and plants."

"We have also observed that the leaves of plants around the plant are free of dust," the report said.

It noted that Formosa Heavy Industries Corp. (FHIC), which sponsored the trip, utilizes a "circulating fluidized combustion bed" that purportedly ensures that its plants meet standards for combustion of coal set by the World Bank and the Taiwanese government.

The officials implied in the report that the plants were acceptable to residents living nearby. "Residents of surrounding communities and business proprietors do not seem to mind having the white steam spewing smokestacks of the coal-fired power plants."

Environmental groups had earlier criticized the Taiwan visit as illegal and unethical for the officials. Air fare and accommodation costs were shouldered by FHIC and its partners, Global Business Power Corp. (GBPC)-Panay Power Corp. (PPC).

GBPC-PPC, the main power supplier of the city, wants to build a 100-megawatt coal plant at its plant in Barangay Ingore in La Paz District.

The Responsible Ilonggos for Renewal Energy (Rise) has filed administrative and criminal complaints against Mabilog and Mayor Jerry Treñas for allegedly violating Republic Act No. 6713 or the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees. Treñas had earlier made a similar trip.

The officials have denied violating any law. They pointed out that under a new directive of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the approval of local governments was not necessary in securing permits for projects like the construction of coal plants.

They said the trip was authorized by the Department of the Interior and Local Government.

Lawyer Romeo Gerochi, who filed the complaints, said the officials' report to the DILG only proved that the trip was related to the "exercise of their duties and official functions and serves as a strong evidence that they violated the law."

Cops stop 2 'Army' men from planting evidence in Glorietta

By DJ Yap

POLICE THWARTED AN ATtempt on Sunday night by two men in Army uniforms to plant a bag of evidence and foul up an investigation into the explosion that wrecked Glorietta 2 shopping mall, the INQUIRER learned yesterday.

The two men were barred from entering a cordoned area of the wreckage after they failed to show security clearance and were ordered to leave, said the source who requested anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media.

The plastic bag was left with police but its content was not revealed.

The source said the two men in Army Rescue uniforms, accompanied by other men in civilian clothes, showed up at the investigation site at 6 p.m. As they turned to leave, Supt. Gilbert Cruz, Makati police chief, talked to them at a table set up near the entrance to the wreck.

"Voices were raised but no guns were pointed at anyone," said the source. "The men eventually agreed to leave without the bag."

Sought for a reaction, Cruz refused to confirm or deny whether the incident took place, saying he was just "following police procedure," and directed all inquiries to his superiors. "It's a very sensitive matter," he told the INQUIRER.

Councilor Jejomar Erwin Binay, head of the Makati Rescue Team, said he was informed of what happened by his men on the field, but that he did not have firsthand knowledge of the incident.

No contamination

"From what I hear, it really happened, but I don't have all the details," he said.

"What is clear here is that there are systems in place to ensure that there is no contamination of evidence. We have to be vigilant that all the evidence is authentic," he told the INQUIRER.

As for the plastic bag, the source said it was still at the site. "Probably the forensic people are examining it. I doubt it can be used as evidence," he said.

Since the Sunday incident, "all the Army Rescue members have been restricted from entering the site," the source said.

Makati gov't orders safety inspection of Glorietta

From page A1

curity Council composed of former presidents, congressional and other leaders to discuss the incident.

Arson and police investigators said they had found signs of a "gas explosion" but nothing that would indicate that it was a bomb that triggered the blast.

Fire Supt. Fenniore Jaudian, chief of the Interagency Arson Task Force, yesterday told reporters that there was an "accumulation of methane" in the basement of the Glorietta 2 when one of the pumps in the sewage system malfunctioned.

Heat from the motors, ventilator fans, and automatic switches in the area, Jaudian said, could have ignited the methane inside the enclosed basement. The heat generated could have triggered an eruption of a 3,500-liter diesel tank also located in the basement.

"There were signs of a buildup of pressure," Jaudian said. "From our evaluation, it's more on the methane (angle) and from Day 1, that has not changed. What we have seen points to a gas explosion."

CHIEF Supt. Luizo Ticman, deputy head of the Southern Police District, shows diagram on the possible sources of ignition that triggered the Glorietta 2 explosion during a press conference in Camp Crame Monday. JOAN BONDOC

Maintenance work

Jaudian said maintenance personnel had done some work in the basement, including the rehabilitation of the pumps for the building's sprinkler system, around a week before Friday's explosion. One of the portable submersible pumps for the sewage system was also replaced just a day before, he said.

Jaudian was part of the team that concluded the SuperFerry 14 bombing that claimed over 100 lives in February 2004 was caused by a bomb attack and not a fire.

On Sunday afternoon, investigators entered the basement area of the Glorietta 2 mall after it was cleared of debris and fumes and after the structural integrity of the area was checked.

Chief Supt. Luizo Ticman, head of the Southern Police District who showed photos of the damage, said the blast was so strong it bent a ceiling in the basement and "pushed up" metal structures in the area.

US, Australian probers

National Capital Region Police Office Director Geary Barias said probers from the US Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Australian Federal Police were helping local investigators. He added local and foreign metallurgical forensic and petro-chemical experts were being enlisted to help in the inquiry.

"We have sifted through a lot of debris and rubble and are continuing this procedure in search of IED (improvised explosive device) components that will help us determine whether or not this explosion was intentionally or accidentally caused," Barias said in a press conference.

He added that investigators had yet to find IED components like a timing device, power source, initiator, switches or container.

Barias also said the initial report of the discovery of RDX, a component used in high explosives including C4 which is used by the military, was still inconclusive and the subject of further investigation.

No traces of RDX

Philippine National Police Director General Avelino Razon also confirmed an earlier INQUIRER report that US bomb experts did not find any traces of RDX in the samples they took from the site.

"We cannot conclude yet what happened in Glorietta 2. We are not yet at that stage in concluding what happened," Razon said.

He said investigators were having a hard time finding clues in the rubble. "It's like looking for a needle in the haystack."

Razon added that police were studying the possible involvement of communist rebels, ultrarightist elements and the Rajah Solaiman Revolutionary Movement, a group of radical Islamic converts.

To cause the kind of damage seen in the Glorietta 2 blast, Razon said 50 kilograms of explosives were needed. "It could have been brought into the mall piecemeal then assembled inside or brought in whole. All these things are possible."

Razon also dismissed the view that the explosion was a result of a "failure of intelligence."

He said that while the PNP had received "general threats" of a bombing attack in Metro Manila, "it is very hard to pinpoint where terrorists would strike." He also said that they have not received any reports that the Glorietta mall was a target.

Appeal for sobriety

Barias also appealed for sobriety from the public amid the circulation of various text messages warning of another blast as well as unconfirmed information on Friday's incident.

Razon said police had identified a group spreading text messages aimed at sowing panic and misinformation. He refused to identify the group.

"We have to separate what is true, a hoax or pranksters playing tricks," he said. "We have identified the source and we are taking action on these groups."

Yesterday, Negros Occidental Rep. Ignacio "Iggy" Arroyo, brother-in-law of the President, offered an additional P1 million to the reward put up by the government for any information that would result in the arrest of the "perpetrators" of Friday's incident.

This brings the total reward to P4 million, including the government's P2 million and Makati City's P1 million.

Businessmen jittery over mall blast

By Daxim L. Lucas

THE GLORIETTA 2 MALL EXplosion yesterday set back Philippine stocks and caused concern among businessmen that three days after the incident no solid leads have surfaced on its cause.

In a telephone interview, Makati Business Club (MBC) executive director Alberto Lim urged the government to ensure the credibility of the ongoing probe into the blast that killed 11 people and injured scores of others.

"Over the short term, we're quite nervous about it," Lim said. "In fact, the [financial] markets have already been affected by it."

Yesterday, the Philippine Stock Exchange index plunged close to 4 percent, due in part to jitters over the blast. Index heavyweight Ayala Land Inc.—the operator of Glorietta mall—was one of the biggest losers of the day.

Nervousness

Lim added that the business nervousness was being aggravated by fears that a conclusive answer about last week's blast may never emerge.

"We may never know for sure," he said, adding that the 1971 Plaza Miranda bombing had been blamed on the late President Ferdinand Marcos until communists were exposed to be the culprits three decades later.

The MBC is the umbrella organization of the country's largest corporations and has taken an activist stance in local politics in the past, most recently in 2005 when it called on President Macapagal-Arroyo to step down in the wake of the "Hello Garci" vote-rigging scandal.

Ayala Land and its parent firm Ayala Corp. are members of the MBC, with the Ayala family being influential voices on the organization.

Cautious prognosis

Lim's prognosis over the longer term was also cautious.

"Over the long term, we still can't say," he said. "We can't say if it will lead to a downward slide [in business confidence]."

Asked to explain the business community's skepticism, Lim said this was due mainly to the timing of the blast, which came on the heels of an alleged bribery scandal in Malacañang purportedly to head off another impeachment attempt against President Arroyo.

To remedy the situation, Lim urged the authorities to conduct a thorough, impartial and transparent investigation on the blast.

Lim noted that there would be substantial "opportunity costs" as a result of the incident, especially to the tourism industry.

"The good thing is that the memory of the tourism industry is usually short," he said.

That Friday, cell phone seemed to keep ringing forever

From page A1

TV," Pocholo said.

Norlita said Tan was gone just a few minutes when the explosion occurred.

"I called him on his cell phone but there was no answer," she said.

Too young to die

Maureen de Leon, 24, a computer programmer at K-Force Global Solutions, had just had a raise and was with friends at the mall when the explosion occurred, her mother Mercedes said.

She said her daughter was coming out of a restaurant with her friends—Jee Ann de Gracia, 25, and Ceasar Niño Vidamo—when the explosion took place.

Maureen's two friends were also killed.

"I still could not accept she's gone," the mother said. She described her daughter as a hard worker who recently told her she could now "enjoy life spending her own money."

"She was too young to die."

Party for Niño

Niño, who would turn 28 on Oct. 29, also worked as a programmer for K-Force Global Solutions and was the sole breadwinner of his family. He had a 3-year-old son.

His family said they would push through with Niño's plan to hold a birthday party on Saturday.

"He described his birthday party as a victory ball for his younger brother, who is a candidate for Sangguniang Kabataan," the mother, Zenaida, said. "We would still have that party to honor his wish."

Last shopping for Anthony

Seaman Anthony Marius Arroyo, 33, had dreams for his wife, Melanie and their three children, aged 12, 9 and 6.

He was supposed to leave for Germany Saturday—the day after the blast—for a job interview.

"We had just eaten lunch in Glorietta 4 and were going around for things he would need," his wife Melanie said. She went into a clothing shop while he stayed outside.

She was still in the shop when a resounding boom toppled blocks of concrete over her. Pinned down by the concrete slabs and in a daze, she wriggled free and looked for her husband.

At the Makati Medical Center, where she was brought to be treated for her cuts and bruises, Melanie searched for him, calling out his name.

She found her husband of 12 years lifeless in the hospital, his body covered with dust.

"Why did it have to be him? Why not those who planned this?" she asked.

Liver crushed

Ricardo Petras, 33, lapsed into a coma before he died at the Ospital ng Makati before dawn Sunday.

Petras was working at the Replay clothing store when the explosion sent the walls crashing on him.

"His liver was severely crushed," his sister Maribel said.

Eerie silence in Porac

In Porac, Pampanga, Leticia Enriquez fell into a state of shock and had to take tranquilizers after hearing that her daughter, Liza, was among those killed, said Enrique Talavera, Leticia's son-in-law.

Liza, who turned 49 last month, was also a breadwinner and the eldest in a brood of six girls. A businesswoman who traded in jewelry, she had gone to Glorietta to check some items.

The family's house in Barangay Cangatba was eerily silent.

Leticia sat by a chair near her daughter's coffin during the wake at a nearby funeral parlor.

"*Ing anak ku* (My child)," was all she could say between sobs.

'Kuya' tells Trillanes to put up or shut up

From page A1

"That's counterproductive," Honasan said. "We should allow them to do their work before we make any comment. We should appreciate the job of bomb experts and policemen."

Just hours after the Glorietta mall explosion on Friday, Trillanes accused the administration of carrying out the bombing to divert public attention away from the scandals buffeting President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Trillanes had looked upon Honasan as his role model in forming the Magdalo group that staged the failed mutiny at the Oakwood commercial complex in 2003. He referred to Honasan, who led several failed coup attempts against President Corazon Aquino and was briefly jailed in connection with the Oakwood caper, as "kuya."

The two had a falling out after Honasan reportedly forged a deal with the Arroyo administration and was released from detention while Trillanes continued to languish behind bars for the same rebellion charges filed against Honasan.

Resignation calls premature

Honasan said that while there was a sense of urgency to determine the cause of the blast, it would be "presumptuous" to dictate how soon the findings should be made.

This is why, Honasan said, it is "premature" to call for the resignation of government officials.

"The investigation has yet to be completed and already people are being asked to resign. Let us give the investigating agencies the chance to finish their work especially with foreign experts giving them assistance," he said.

Lacson had previously called for the resignation of Gonzales for "gross failure of intelligence" for not getting any inkling of the bomb attack at Glorietta beforehand despite the vast resources at his disposal.

Honasan said he had doubts whether the blast was a terrorist attack because "there were few casualties, there was no fragment, or shrapnel, or fire."

"With drums of oil, with methane in an enclosed space in a basement, you can expect that kind of effect," he said.

Practice restraint

Senate Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan, calling the word war between Trillanes and Gonzales "very distasteful," said that "the last thing we should be doing now is to throw baseless accusations at one another."

"The only responsible thing to do right now is to practice restraint in issuing malicious statements and innuendoes ... When we make serious accusations without hard evidence, we are doing a disservice to the nation because these charges and countercharges are just confusing the public even more," Pangilinan said.

In Cebu City, Environment Secretary Lito Atienza yesterday defended Ms Arroyo from insinuations she ordered Friday's bombing to divert attention from charges she had bribed congressmen into accepting a "sham" impeachment move against her.

"No matter how much you don't like President Arroyo, the President isn't capable of thinking to harm anyone," he told reporters here.

Atienza said Trillanes and the public should learn from the lessons of the 1971 Plaza Miranda bombing, which the opposition blamed on then President Ferdinand Marcos, but which turned out to be the handiwork of the Communist Party of the Philippines.

Philippine National Police Director General Avelino Razon described Trillanes' accusation as "irresponsible." *With reports from Dona Z. Pazzibugan, TJ Burgonio and Alcuin Papa*

RP has made little progress on political slays probe, says rights group

AUTHORITIES HAVE MADE little progress investigating hundreds of political killings in the Philippines in recent years, despite international pressure, human rights activists yesterday said.

The Hong Kong Mission for Human Rights and Peace in the Philippines, led by Hong Kong legislator Leung Kwok-Hung, met with families of victims and government officials during a five-day visit to the country.

"There is very little development in the investigation of these cases," the group said in a statement read by Leung.

Though the incidence of extrajudicial killings has gone down, the problem persists and no one has been convicted in any of the slayings, the group said.

Local human rights groups say more than 800 leftist activists have been killed since President Macapagal-Arroyo took office in 2001.

The military says that number is exaggerated because some of the dead were communist guerrillas killed in armed clashes.

A UN envoy and an independent government commission have both identified military elements in many of the killings.

In June, Alistair MacDonald, the European ambassador to Manila, criticized the government for not properly addressing the "plague" of extrajudicial killings.

Since then, Ms Arroyo ordered the creation of special courts to handle rights cases and ordered the military to conduct an internal probe.

Earlier this month, Arroyo said 76 cases of political killings were pending in various courts while another 33 were being prepared for prosecution, including those against a former policeman and soldier.

Aside from Leung, the other 10 delegates came from the Asian Human Rights Commission, Justice and Peace Commission of the Hong Kong Catholic Diocese, HK Federation of Catholic Students, Asia Pacific Mission for Migrants, Asian Center for Progress of Peoples, Asian Students Association, and Asian Monitor Resource Center.

The delegates said they would come out with a full report after they return home. *Reports from AFP and Jerome Aning*

Is Ermita on way out? Palace: He's on a mission

From page A1

gious officials and media personnel since 2001.

On President Macapagal-Arroyo's instructions, Ermita and Commission on Human Rights Chair Purificacion Quisumbing "jointly led" the high-level delegation whose composition was not immediately disclosed.

Ermita's sudden departure came on the heels of reports that he had threatened to quit over the distribution of cash ranging from P200,000 to P500,000 to members of the House of Representatives and governors in Malacañang two weeks ago.

Ermita was reportedly not informed that Malacañang was releasing money to the lawmakers and governors on Oct. 11 following a meeting with President Macapagal-Arroyo ostensibly to kill the latest impeachment complaint against her.

But Ermita has strongly denounced the "misinformation" aimed at sowing discord among members of the Cabinet.

Ermita's trip surprised the Malacañang press corps because it was the executive secretary who was in charge of the day-to-day operations in the Palace.

The President usually sends Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo and National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales to convey her message to foreign counterparts.

For the duration of Ermita's absence, Ms Arroyo has designated Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye as acting executive secretary.

Long-scheduled trip

Cerge Remonde, chief of the Presidential Management Staff, said Ermita did not leave for the United States for political reasons.

"No, it has nothing to do with ZTE Corp.," Remonde said, referring to the Chinese corporation that bagged the $329-million contract for the National Broadband Network (NBN) project. Ms Arroyo shelved the contract amid allegations that the deal was tainted by offers of bribe and overpricing.

"It's a long-scheduled trip, and it is exclusively on the issue of human rights," Remonde said, denying that Ermita would proceed to Washington to seek the support of the Bush administration following renewed calls for Ms Arroyo's resignation.

"Let us not give any additional meaning to a long-scheduled trip on an issue that is very important to government. Secretary Ermita will personally deliver the human rights report to Prof. Philip Alston and answer questions related to it," he said.

Government efforts vs killings

In explaining the trip, the advisory issued by the Office of the Executive Secretary said that a few months back, UN officials led by Special Rapporteur Philip Alston visited the country "to look into allegations made by some groups of widespread unexplained killings in the country."

"In light of Alston's impending submission of a UN report on the matter, the President decided a couple of weeks back to send ES Ermita as chairman of the Presidential Human Rights Committee to New York to personally update UN officials on government's efforts in dealing with the situation," the advisory said.

Ermita was then asked by Ms Arroyo to face the international community to "underscore to them the government's continuing resolve and commitment to address all forms of human rights violations, especially in light of the country's recent election to the UN Human Rights Council."

Supreme Court rules that a he can't be a she

From page A1

and is engaged to be married to an American man.

But when Silverio filed a petition to change his name and sex on his birth certificate, he ran into a brick wall. There was no law allowing the change of entries in a birth certificate on the basis of sex alteration.

Silverio elevated the matter to the Supreme Court, which denied his petition: Legally, he cannot be considered female nor can he be known by his feminine name.

In a decision released yesterday, the high court said that although Silverio believed he had "acquired the physical features of a female" through surgery, there was no law authorizing the changing of details in the birth certificate based on a sex change operation.

Right to happiness

The tribunal commiserated with Silverio and agreed that he is entitled to happiness, contentment and the realization of his dreams, but said an act of Congress was needed to make the changes in the civil registry.

"The court recognizes that there are people whose preferences and orientation do not fit neatly into the commonly recognized parameters of social convention and that, at least for them, life is indeed an ordeal," the court said.

"However, the remedies the petitioner seeks involve questions of public policy to be addressed solely by the legislature, not by the courts."

The tribunal added that the legislature, if it wanted to, should determine the guidelines governing the recognition of the effects of a sex change operation.

The high court also said that allowing Silverio to alter his birth certificate on the basis of his operation would have "wide-ranging legal and public policy consequences," including the social institution of marriage which is supposed to be between a man and a woman.

It said that granting Silverio's plea would allow a man to marry another man who had undergone an operation.

The court added that certain laws applied only to women, such as the provision in the Labor Code on the employment of women.

Becoming a woman

Silverio was allowed by the Manila Regional Trial Court to legally change his name to Mely and his sex to female in 2003 after undergoing sex reassignment surgery in Bangkok in 2001.

He had also undergone the prescribed psychological examination, hormone therapy and breast augmentation.

But the Manila RTC decision was overturned by the Court of Appeals after it was contested by the Office of the Solicitor General because of the absence of a law allowing the change of entries in a birth certificate due to a sex alteration.

Silverio then elevated the matter to the Supreme Court, which ruled that sex reassignment could not be used as a basis for a change of name, which is a privilege and not a right.

Under the law, name changes are administrative in nature and could be granted if the name is ridiculous, the new name has been habitually used, and the change would avoid confusion, the high court said.

Wrong venue

The high court also said the petition was filed in the wrong venue, and that Silverio failed to show how he would be prejudiced by using his real name.

"He intended to make his first name compatible with the sex he thought he transformed himself into through surgery. However, a change of name does not alter one's legal capacity or civil status," the tribunal said.

The change in the sex listed on the birth certificate could not be allowed because of Silverio's operation, since there was no law governing it. There was no error in the birth certificate that needed changing, it added.

"Under the Civil Register Law, a birth certificate is a historical record of the facts as they existed at the time of birth. Thus, the sex of a person is determined at birth, visually done by the birth attendant (the physician or the midwife) by examining the genitals of the infant," the high court said.

IN THE KNOW

A NUMBER OF AMERICAN states allow persons who have undergone gender reassignment surgery to change both their names and sex.

Some states issue an "amended" birth certificate, while others issue a new birth certificate instead of amending the old one.

The state of Alabama, for example, will issue an "amended" birth certificate noting the change of name and sex but will not issue a new birth certificate replacing the original. A person will have to present an original or certified copy of the court order for the name change, and an original or certified copy of a court order for change of sex along with medical documentation of the gender reassignment surgery.

New York City, which has its own separate Bureau of Vital Statistics, will issue a new birth certificate rather than amend the old one.

Eliza Victoria and Schatzi Quodala, Inquirer Research

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Center for Health Development – Bicol
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Website: http://www.doh.gov.ph/bmc/index.htm

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

The **BICOL MEDICAL CENTER**, through General Appropriations Act intends to apply specified sum for the following projects:

a) Project : **Procurement of Janitorial Services for C/Y 2008 (IAEB No. 2007-24)**

Approved Budget for the Contract. **FIVE MILLION PESOS ONLY (PhP 5,000,000.00) (GAA CY 2008)**

Sale of Bid Documents	October 23 to 30, 2007
Pre-Bid Conference	October 30, 2007 – 9:00 A.M., BMC Library
Submission of Bids	November 12, 2007 – 8:00 to 9:00 A.M., BMC Library
Opening of Bids	November 12, 2007 – 9:00 A.M., BMC Library
Price of Bid Documents	TWO THOUSAND PESOS (PhP2,000.00)

b) Project : **Procurement of Security Services for C/Y 2008 (IAEB No. 2006-23)**

Approved Budget for the Contract **THREE MILLION PESOS ONLY (PhP3,000,000.00) (GAA CY 2008)**

Sale of Bid Documents	October 23 to 30, 2007
Pre-Bid Conference	October 30, 2007 – 2:00 P.M., BMC Library
Submission of Bids	November 12, 2007 – 1:00 to 2:00 P.M., BMC Library
Opening of Bids	November 12, 2007 – 2:00 P.M. BMC Library
Price of Bid Documents	ONE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED PESOS (PhP1,500.00)

Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid Opening.

The **BICOL MEDICAL CENTER** now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the above stated projects. The contract for Janitorial and Security Services will be effective beginning January 1, 2008 until December 31, 2008

The description of an eligible bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act No. 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted to organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, as specified in Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the lowest calculated bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine his responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from **BICOL MEDICAL CENTER** and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 A.M. to 12:00 Noon; 1:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M., except weekends and Holidays.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents for each project may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee as stated above. The method of payment will be in the form of Cash. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative
6. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address, date and time stated above. The bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in any of the following forms, in the amount at least equal to and not lower than a percentage of the ABC or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency:

1. Cash, certified check, cashier's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit	**(1% of ABC)**
2. Bank Guarantee	**(1.5% of ABC)**
3. GSIS Surety Bond	**(2.5% of ABC)**

Late bids shall not be accepted

7. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representative/s who choose to attend at the address below.
8. The **BICOL MEDICAL CENTER** reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

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E-mail Address bac_bicolmed@yahoo.com.ph
Fax No (054) 473-8936
Website http://www.doh.gov.ph/bmc/index.htm

Contact Person: **JENSY S. ONG, MD, FPOA**
BAC Chairman

(Sgd.) **JENSY S. ONG, MD, FPOA**
BAC Chairman

(PDI–Oct. 23, 2007)

This prayer will be offered at 12:00 noon today, at the start of the Cabinet Meeting at the Aguinaldo State Dining Room in Malacañang Palace.

We enjoin you to pause from your labors at the same time today and recite this prayer, along with our Pangulong Gloria and her Cabinet.

As a nation, united in spirit and purpose, let us look to God today for strength and comfort, remembering His promise that "where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them." (Matthew 18:20).

Prayer To Open The Cabinet Meeting

by SECRETARY AUGUSTO BOBOY SYJUCO, Director General, TESDA
12 Noon, Tuesday, October 23, 2007

Let us assume the posture of prayer as we come before the Throne of Grace.

Our Lord and our God, Creator of this great nation that we love with infinite tenderness:

We thank You Father for this Strong Republic which is the country of our spirit and the nation of our soul; where every Filipino is our brother and every child our common accountability.

As a nation in mourning, we implore Thy comfort as the blackness of sorrow breaks upon the hearts of Filipino families whose loved ones were senselessly taken at Glorietta last Friday.

As a country steeped in compassion, we beseech Thy forgiveness for the misguided ones who have inflicted yet another unspeakable reign of terror on your people.

Amidst dark and terrible circumstance, we come to you as a grateful nation, ever thankful that beneath these azure skies— we have vastness of natural resources and the richest abundance of millions of creative and competent Filipino workers, eager to apply their labor in a global workplace that actively seeks to employ them.

As a people accustomed, and yet vulnerable, to danger, we pray for Thine protection and guidance because we see a tempest looming in the horizon— a tempest brought by implacable men in authority who have taken leave of sense and sensibility.

These men have forgotten, Lord, that honest and public-spirited service demands that we become true lovers of the common interests, and servants of no special group of sons or daughters.

These men feed our people with poisoned bread, committing fresh crimes everyday against good sense and equity. From their shady designs, dear God, preserve the imperiled honor of this nation and our people.

We thank You for the leadership of Thy servant, our President Gloria Macapagal Aroyo.

As an obedient people whom you have charged to render to the State the things that are the State's, we pray as a nation for our President. Amidst the flurries of accusations and resulting uncertainties — our hearts grant her benefit of the doubt, rather than doubt her benefit, as well we should, for the sake of our nation's stability. For we have chosen her to lead us. And if we do not stand by her united, divided, we shall fall.

In these trying times, grant our President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo clarity, insight and wisdom to lead Thine nation, o Lord — that she may pursue with resolute determination what is right, never flinching because some will not obtain favors, but always leading us in the spirit of fair and honest service.

Accept now, O God, the labors of this day and the frail lives of Your servants in this Cabinet. Teach us not to adhere to the law of hate.

Remove the scales from our eyes so we may understand that it is not just the mechanism of laws that produce great events for our people, but greatness of our people that produce great events.

We ask for your abundant grace, Lord, in all that lies ahead for the Philippines. To You be all honor and glory, world without end.

These prayers, these blessings, these urges we ask in Thy Holy Name.

Let us all say, AMEN.

CLEANSING CEREMONY Kubul ng Pagasa led by Fr. Robert Reyes held a "cleansing" rite in front of the Comelec's office in Intramuros Monday to symbolically show the need for a clean and honest government especially with the coming elections. REM ZAMORA

'Did you receive money?' letters for local execs

Goal: Prick their conscience

By Fe Zamora

LOCAL GOVERNMENT EXECUTIVES who had breakfast with President Macapagal-Arroyo on Oct. 11 will be sent letters with these questions from civil society groups: "*Nakatanggap ka ba*? (Did you receive money?)" and "*Anong gagawin mo*? (What will you do with it?)"

The questions were designed "to prick their conscience," said Vicente Romano III, a convenor of the Black and White Movement, which has called for the resignation of the President.

"This is clearly a moral crisis," Romano said of the reported distribution of cash gifts, amounting to as much as half a million pesos, to government officials who attended a breakfast meeting called by Ms Arroyo in the Palace the other week.

Romano led members of civil society groups in a consultative forum on what to do in the midst of this new crisis facing the Arroyo administration.

Boycott

The multisectoral Black and White Movement also intensified its pressure for Ms Arroyo to resign by calling for a boycott of companies identified with the President and her allies.

According to Romano, "pricking the conscience" of officials who support Ms Arroyo is intended to make them see the immorality of bribery, and hopefully push them to "withdraw support" from the President.

He said the civil society groups will also initiate an information campaign on the bribery scandals that have hit the Arroyo administration.

Imelda Nicolas, a former Arroyo Cabinet member who resigned amid the "Hello Garci" scandal in July 2005, said "calling for GMA's resignation was not enough."

Nicolas said officials who are Ms Arroyo's "pillars of moral support" should withdraw, a move similar to what the so-called "Hyatt 10" did two years ago.

Terrorism won't stop senators on bribe probe

By Gil Cabacungan Jr.

THE SELF-STYLED "SOLID EIGHT" opposition senators yesterday said they would not let the Glorietta mall bombing distract them from their probe of anomalies in the Arroyo administration.

In a statement yesterday, the minority bloc members said they would stay focused on investigations of the ZTE-National Broadband Network (NBN) scandal, the "Hello Garci" tapes and the distribution of bags of money during a recent meeting in Malacañang.

The eight senators—Aquilino Pimentel Jr., Panfilo Lacson, Mar Roxas, Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino Jr., Rodolfo Biazon, Antonio Trillanes IV, Loren Legarda and Jamby Madrigal—met Sunday afternoon at the Manila Polo Club to assess the political situation in the face of the suspected terrorist bomb blast in Makati City.

The group made the announcement amid fears that the blast had dampened the Senate's enthusiasm to continue its investigations.

The Senate will hold a hearing on alleged bribery in the NBN deal on Thursday with First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo and Commission on Higher Education chair Romulo Neri heading the list of guests.

On the other hand, Sen. Gringo Honasan said it was time to "taper off" the investigations because they were getting in the way of the senators' main job of making and amending laws. "I think we have enough to warrant the filing of charges if any... We cannot go on hammering on personalities," said Honasan.

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MMDA told to look for new dump

Deadline up Thursday; Rizal gov. says trash facility only for province

By Allison W. Lopez and Stephanie R. Asuncion

THE METROPOLITAN MANILA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY might soon end up dealing with a full-blown garbage crisis after Rizal Gov. Casimiro Ynares III yesterday said the agency would have to find a new dump for the waste generated by Metro Manila residents starting this Friday.

"The landfill in Rodriguez, Rizal was never meant to accommodate garbage from Metro Manila. It is only good for municipalities in the province," Ynares told the INQUIRER over the phone.

He added that the provincial government earlier gave the MMDA 14 days to find an alternative dump for the metropolis' waste.

"This Thursday is the 14th day. For two weeks, we have been accommodating Metro Manila garbage. I think that we have given the MMDA enough time," Ynares said.

According to the governor, MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando asked him for an extension of six months.

"If we were to agree, in six months' time, the landfill would be full and we would have no place to dump our garbage," Ynares said.

The 19-hectare Rodriguez landfill, according to the MMDA, takes in one-third of the 8,000 cubic meters of waste Metro Manila residents produce every day.

Fernando, who was at the Kapihan sa Manila Hotel forum yesterday, admitted that garbage collection in the metropolis could be affected by the Rizal provincial government's decision.

Although there were alternative dumps, Fernando said that these were too far away and "insufficient."

"It's a problem every time we lose a dump, if there are changes in the schedule of garbage trucks or in their destinations. If we bring our garbage to another place, people might react adversely," he said.

The landfill in Clark, Pampanga province, Fernando pointed out, was three times farther than Rizal and would definitely affect the garbage trucks' schedule.

"I cannot assure Metro Manila residents that they will not be affected. Right now, it takes a garbage truck about half a day to dispose of its cargo. It might soon take a whole day," he said.

In the face of an impending garbage problem, Fernando appealed to residents to reduce their household waste, especially the biodegradable kind.

"For example, they can dice decomposing waste or kitchen waste and flush it into the toilet," he said.

He also urged the public not to throw their uncollected garbage out on the streets or burn it.

"Let's take responsibility for our garbage. We should do more recycling but burning trash is illegal," said Fernando.

The MMDA chair said that the Rodriguez landfill was still the best "long-term solution."

He urged Rizal provincial officials to think of the public's welfare. "They may not be from Metro Manila but they should also keep in mind the general welfare of the people," Fernando said.

Manila adds security detail to City Hall; schools hold calamity drills

By Allison W. Lopez

SECURITY HAS BEEN TIGHTENED AT the Manila City Hall following Friday's explosion at the Glorietta 2 in Makati City.

Insp. Marcelo Reyes, City Security Force officer in charge, yesterday said that only one entrance leading to City Hall would remain open while the three others have already been closed.

Additional policemen have also been deployed to the lone entrance, the one on Gat Antonio Villegas Street (formerly Arroceros), to check the belongings of people entering the premises.

Reyes said he decided to shut the other gates even without any directive from Mayor Alfredo Lim, who ordered all the four entrances open to the public after he assumed office in July.

"I took it upon myself to close the three gates for security reasons. The mayor and the department heads have nothing to do with it. I'm taking full responsibility for this," said Reyes, who also heads the investigation and follow-up branch of the District Special Project Unit.

The tighter inspection, he admitted, was enforced after Friday's explosion.

Acting Mayor Isko Moreno, meanwhile, urged school officials to conduct drills and seminars to teach their students what to do during an emergency or a calamity such as a bombing or an earthquake.

Moreno, who is in charge until Lim's return from Taiwan on Thursday, said school security guards should also familiarize themselves with bomb components so they would be able to identify an explosive should they see one.

Apart from the mandatory bag inspection at City Hall, Reyes said dogs would patrol the building every night after all the employees leave.

He added that they would also request metal detectors from the mayor's office to screen those entering the building. Congestion, he said, should not be a problem because there is a separate gate for vehicles and for pedestrians.

"We hope for your understanding of these minor changes. This is not an inconvenience because we are looking after the security of everyone, especially since we have a lot of transient visitors," Reyes stressed.

A TRAINED dog of the Manila Police District sniffs a box for explosives after security was stepped up in the city following Friday's explosion in a Makati City mall. REM ZAMORA

The increased security will be implemented while the investigation of the Glorietta 2 blast is ongoing, Reyes said.

Across City Hall, military men carrying long firearms were seen walking around the perimeter of SM Manila, apart from the mall's numerous security guards who were inspecting customers' bags more thoroughly.

As a result, the lines that formed at the entrances to the mall were longer even though there were more security guards.

The INQUIRER also learned that five members of the Civil Military Operations battalion have been conducting foot patrols at the mall since Friday evening, or just hours after the Glorietta 2 bombing where 11 people died and dozens others were hurt.

A soldier who declined to be named because he was not authorized to comment said they were pulled out from Moriones, Tondo to guard the mall and its parking areas from opening to closing time.

Investigators have confirmed that the blast at Glorietta 2 mall originated from the basement area.

Strict monitoring of malls, business areas in south Metro

By Julie M. Aurelio

TWO MAYORS IN THE SOUTHERN PART of the metropolis have ordered a stricter watch on malls and major business establishments in their areas following the bombing of the Glorietta 2 in Makati City which killed 11 people and injured many others.

In Taguig City, Mayor Freddie Tinga directed the police to step up security at the Bonifacio Global City, home to two Ayala-owned malls: Market! Market! and Bonifacio High Street.

"The situation requires constant vigilance and being proactive in our antiterrorist measures. Prevention is always the key," Tinga said.

He cited reports that the Bonifacio Global City, along with other major establishments in Metro Manila, could be a possible target of terror attacks.

The City Health Office also placed on standby quick response and emergency medical service teams in preparation for any untoward incident following Friday's bomb attack.

"We now have 30 more roving police officers detailed at the Fort Bonifacio Global City. I have also placed beat patrollers, Special Weapons and Tactics teams, members of the Motorized Anti-Crime Office and the Taguig Mobile Patrol Group all over the commercial area," said Taguig city police chief, Supt. Alfred Corpus.

They were supported by bomb-sniffing dogs and members of the National Capital Region Command of the Armed Forces, he added.

Security has also been tightened in establishments in Muntinlupa City, particularly the Alabang Town Center, Festival Mall and the Metropolis mall, all in Alabang.

"We want to protect our citizens and shoppers, especially now that people are preparing for All Saints' Day and Christmas," Mayor Aldrin San Pedro said.

He advised mall owners to implement their own preventive measures and use security cameras to monitor all areas in their establishments.

Additional checkpoints have been set up by the police and the Public Order and Safety Office to monitor any suspicious activity in Muntinlupa, San Pedro added.

"Our police will do their best to protect the public from such incidents. We should be vigilant and report any suspicious movements," he said.

DID YOU KNOW

THE PUBLIC Attorney's Office is an attached agency of the Department of Justice which gives free legal assistance to ithe poor.

The PAO started out as the Citizens' Legal Assistance Office, created on Oct. 23, 1972 by Presidential Decree No. 1 and Implementation Order No. 4. It initially had 94 lawyers and 10 regional and 26 district offices.

The office got its current name by virtue of the Administrative Code of 1987. It now has a work force of 964 lawyers and staff distributed among 16 regional offices, 252 district offices and six sub-district offices. Its central office is in Diliman, Quezon City. The chief public attorney's office numbers are 929-9010, 927-6810 and 926-2878.

Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research

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METROBRIEFS

Urban poor hit MMDA

AN URBAN poor group yesterday accused the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority of violating a one-month moratorium on the demolition of shanties in Metro Manila. The Urban Poor Associates said the MMDA ignored the ban which both parties agreed upon during a recent hearing conducted by the Senate committee on urban planning, housing and resettlement. "The MMDA should change its name to Metro Manila Demolition Abuses. It has displaced thousands of poor families more than a major disaster can," said Ted Añana, UPA deputy coordinator. A number of shanties on the Estero Tripa de Gallina in Pasay City were torn down last week, displacing around 100 informal settlers. The MMDA began demolishing the row of houses along the waterway in August after several typhoons caused massive flooding in several parts of Metro Manila. "We tried to tell them that we would just get our things but they went on anyway and tore down our houses," said Diana de la Torre, 36. The widow added that they were surprised by the MMDA's move because they thought the one-month moratorium on demolitions was still in effect.

Julie M. Aurelio

Bamboo seminar set

THE CAROLINA Bamboo Garden will hold a seminar on earning money from bamboo on Nov. 3, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., at Barangay San Jose, Antipolo City. The speakers will be from the Ecosystem Research and Development Bureau and Forest Product Research and Development Institute. For reservations, please call Cita or Evelyn at 8671055, 8163868/73 or 75 or 0920-9075717.

Military officer dies in Pasig road accident; driver seriously hurt

By Kristine L. Alave

A MILITARY OFFICER WAS killed instantly while his driver was seriously injured when their sports utility vehicle rammed into a concrete island in Ortigas Avenue, Pasig City at dawn yesterday.

SPO4 Luisito Enriquez identified the fatality as 1Lt. Alexson Domingo, 26, a native of Bohol province.

The driver of the blue Toyota Revo (WMP 880), Richard Rebamonte, 26, was taken to the Medical City where he is undergoing treatment.

Police said the vehicle was traveling on Ortigas Avenue at around 4:30 a.m. when one of its tires got caught in an open manhole, causing the Revo to crash into the nearby center island.

Because of the impact of the collision, the victims were thrown off their seats. Domingo was killed on the spot.

Police are still trying to establish if the victims were drunk and if they were using seatbelts at the time of the incident.

A PASSERBY looks at a Toyota Revo which slammed into a center island in Pasig City yesterday morning. A military officer was killed in the incident while his driver was seriously injured. RAFFY LERMA

Suspected illegal recruiter could face estafa charge

By Jeannette I. Andrade

THIRTY ALLEGED VICTIMS OF a suspected illegal recruiter trooped yesterday morning to the Quezon City Police District (QCPD) to file a complaint against a woman who reportedly gypped at least 500 prospective overseas workers of an estimated P2.5 million.

After learning that Shirley Paulite, 27, of Barangay Matandang Balara, San Ildefonso, Bulacan had been in the custody of the QCPD Criminal Investigation and Detection Unit since Saturday, the complainants arrived in droves at the unit office in Camp Karingal.

Rolando Sabarilio claimed the suspect promised him a job as a factory worker in Sydney, Australia. He was asked to give P5,000 for medical tests.

Sabarilio said that he readily believed Paulite because he was made to attend at least two orientation seminars for those who wanted to work abroad at the Aberdeen Court and Sulo Hotel last month.

"I saw in the logbook that there were at least 500 participants in the seminars," he said.

Another complainant, Bernadette Ventura, said she was told the fee was only P5,000 because the medical examination would be conducted in Australia, and that there was no placement fee because Paulite was directly sent by the factory in Australia to recruit personnel. She said the suspect never issued her a receipt.

The payment, she added, was to be deducted from the salary of those who would be hired.

The complainants said they grew suspicious of Paulite when she gave them different addresses and cellular phone numbers.

Paulite is in police custody pending the filing of large scale estafa and illegal recruitment charges against her.

Waterless QC, Manila during weekend

By Amy R. Remo

PARTS OF MANILA AND QUEZON City will have no water from 1 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 27, until 9 a.m. the following day.

In line with this, Maynilad Water Services Inc. said it will deploy 47 mobile tankers to supply water to affected customers.

The water service interruption is due to the simultaneous interconnection of four primary pipelines and other operational maintenance work which are expected to improve water supply in the area.

Maynilad will also conduct maintenance work at the Tondo Pumping Station and a valve insertion on the 900-mm CIP line on J.P. Laurel, Mendiola in Manila.

Maynilad said the repairs and maintenance work are part of its water improvement program.

Customers may call the Maynilad Water Hotlines 1626 or 4362000, or text Maynilad 2898 for the water rationing schedule.

Areas that will have no water for 32 hours in Manila include:

- The whole of Sta. Mesa, San Miguel, Quiapo and Pandacan; portions of Paco bounded by Creek on the west and President Quirino on the northeast and southeast; and portions of Binondo bounded by Estero del Binondo, Estero de la Reina, C. M. Recto, Estero de Magdalena, Estero de la Reina and Pasig River.
- Portions of Sta. Cruz bounded by C. M. Recto, Estero de Magdalena, Muelle de Banco Nacional and Estero de Binondo; Bambang Ext., Estero de Magdalena, C.M. Recto and Antonio Rivera; Bambang Ext., Mayhaligue, Quezon Blvd., C.M. Recto and Estero de Magdalena; C.M. Recto, Quezon Blvd., Pasig River and Estero dela Reina; C.M. Recto, Estero de San Miguel, Pasig River and Quezon Blvd.
- Parts of Tondo bounded by Moriones, Ilaya, CM Recto and Juan Luna.
- Portions of Sampaloc (Batanes, G. Tuazon, Gov. Forbes, España, portion of Recto, Lerma, Galicia, Earnshaw, San Anton, Legarda).

Affected areas in Quezon City are Barangays Don Manuel, Doña Aurora, Doña Imelda, Santol, Sto. Niño and San Isidro.

BPINOYS:
MAKING A MARK IN AND OUT OF THE COUNTRY

BPI recently honored internationally acclaimed fashion designer Monique Lhuillier, represented by her mother Amparito Lhuillier (third from left), and renowned heart surgeon Dr. Jorge Garcia (fourth from left) as two outstanding overseas Filipinos. With the BPInoy Awardees are (from left) BPI Senior Vice President Nita Claravall, BPI President Aurelio Montinola, President of Ayala Corp. and BPI Director Fernando Zobel de Ayala and BPI Senior Vice President Tessie Tan

Internationally renowned fashion designer Monique Lhuillier and accomplished heart surgeon Dr. Jorge Garcia are BPI's 2007 BPInoy Awardees. The BPInoy Awards, launched last year, honor Filipinos who serve as an inspiration for their fellows in different fields. It was created to recognize the praiseworthy achievements of Filipinos who have made considerable contributions to their chosen craft.

Lhuillier's BPInoy Award was accepted in her behalf by her mother Amparito, who also read her acceptance speech. Ms. Amparito expressed elation for her daughter's award. Monique, her mother revealed, had always been independent and driven. "I'm sure she did have challenging times when she started business, but she was able to get there. As they say, nothing is impossible if you really put your focus on what you want to achieve in life. She was a strong little girl growing up who made her own decisions. It was easy for me as a mother because she was never a spoiled or privileged child."

She added that Monique considers the BPInoy Award a special honor. "This project is so fitting for those Filipinos who are out there making a name, and it would be nice to give glory to the Philippines because Filipinos can compete in any type of business, in medicine, the arts, or service. We are all delegates of the Philippines when we're abroad; we can compete with others and even do better!"

Dr. Jorge Garcia, whose four-decade career continues to garner milestones, has been awarded twice before in previous decades by Presidents Ferdinand Marcos and Fidel Ramos. "They honored me for being a successful Filipino heart surgeon," he said. "I've been working in the United States since 1967, in Washington, DC. I was in my early 30s when I started my practice of cardiovascular/heart surgery. During those days, most of the opportunities were in the US, particularly in heart surgery. But things gradually improved in the '80s. The opening of the Philippine Heart Center helped. Filipinos started catching up and treated heart diseases. Right now, more than 90% of heart disease procedures can be done here."

The doctor felt the desire to help out, and was responsible for the opening of the Makati Heart Foundation, and later, the Asian Hospital. "In the '90s, I started coming back and saw the need for the kind of work that I was doing," he recounted. "I brought my American team here, initially, to start some of the newer things we were doing in heart surgery during those days. After a year, I trained a lot of Filipino nurses and doctors. I brought them to the US to learn our system, which we apply here. We've been sending over people for training. For the last 12 years, I commute every two weeks. I spend two weeks here and two weeks in the US."

Aside from the BPInoy Awards, BPI also helps out in making sure that the hard work and achievements of overseas Filipino workers are recognized. Through its new BPInoy remittance program, those working abroad can benefit from easy and convenient money transfer transactions. As one of the most trusted banking organizations in the country, BPI has been honoring the Filipino worker for over a century and a half, and will continue to uplift and celebrate his forays and accomplishments for many years to come ■

Cops warn pranksters about bomb tips

By Kristine L. Alave

PRANKSTERS, BE WARNED.

Bracing for prank callers after the Glorietta 2 explosion in Makati City on Friday, Eastern Police District chief, Senior Supt. Nilo de la Cruz, yesterday said they would identify and throw in jail anyone who phones in a bomb threat that turns out to be false.

The EPD, De la Cruz said, has the technology to trace prank callers who waste the time and energy of the police who are at the receiving end of fake bomb tips.

The EPD has jurisdiction over the Ortigas Business District, a major financial center, after Makati City.

The district also has the most number of malls in Metro Manila. Major shopping complexes in the area are close to each other and close to Edsa, a major thoroughfare, making these areas prime targets for attacks.

The National Capital Region Police Office has been on the highest alert level since Friday's blast in the popular shopping mall that killed 11 people and injured over 100. Police have yet to determine the cause of the explosion.

Employees in some government agencies and malls panicked over the weekend following reports in the cities of Pasay and Manila about bomb threats which turned out to be fake.

ANOTHER CAMPAIGN PERIOD

The barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections may still be a week away but candidates and their supporters in San Andres Bukid, Manila are wasting no time in campaigning. ROGER MARGALLO

GMA about to pay a karmic debt?

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

FOR ALL HER FAULTS AND WHAT she's capable of doing, it is unlikely that President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered the Glorietta 2 explosion just to get the bribery scandal off her back.

We still don't know if she is capable of 1) cheating in an election; 2) forcing a subordinate to approve a multibillion-peso government deal even if she knew it was attended by corruption; and 3) bribing congressmen and local officials, but it is unthinkable for the convent-bred Ms Arroyo to order that despicable act, knowing full well many people would get killed and injured.

But what we know is that she isn't capable of doing and thinking of such an abominable act.

The President's flaw is not being in control, a leader's cardinal sin.

It's time for GMA to think of throwing in the towel because the tipping point is in sight.

* * *

When a leader is so much distrusted by his or her subjects, it's time for that leader to quit.

The majority of the population believes she had a hand in the Glorietta bombing.

People from all walks of life I talked to about the bombing have pointed to the President as the culprit in the Glorietta incident.

Unfair? But that's the general perception, even if it's not true.

* * *

The President would be doing the citizenry a big favor if she resigned and turned the reins of government over to a trusted hand.

That means her constitutional successor, Vice President Noli de Castro.

The perception of the middle class and intellectuals that De Castro is not capable of running the government is just that—a perception.

Let's try De Castro first before we judge him. Anyway, the 2010 presidential election is less than three years away. We can elect a new leader if De Castro is incompetent.

* * *

If Ms Arroyo resigns now, she will spare herself the humiliation of being yanked out of office like her predecessor, former President Joseph "Erap" Estrada.

What she did to Erap, she might soon undergo. Erap so trusted her he gave her a Cabinet portfolio even if she was in the opposition. Despite that trust, Ms Arroyo joined the plot to oust him.

If she resigns or is toppled, she will only be paying a karmic debt.

Karma is the universal law of cause and effect: What you do to your fellowmen will be done to you.

* * *

I have it on good authority that after reports about the Glorietta 2 bombing reached her, the President allegedly called Washington.

She has sent Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita to the United States apparently to talk with US officials.

Will Uncle Sam take pity on her and prop up her floundering regime?

* * *

Methane gas from a septic tank at the basement of Glorietta 2 could have caused the explosion that killed 11 people and injured scores of others.

That angle is being looked into by police investigators eager to please Malacañang.

Here's a funny text message I received in reaction to that angle: "govt is self-destructing. imploding due to methane in all branches of govt esp Malacañang. haha!"

SUSUNOD KA NA!
32,285 pirated CDs ang nakumpiska. Mahigit 30 na kumpanya ang na-raid. P11 Milyon assets ang nasamsam. At hindi pa kami tapos sa pagsugpo.
PILIPINAS ANTI-PIRACY TEAM

Pilipinas Anti-Piracy Team (PAPT) is the government-led organization composed of the Philippine National Police (PNP), National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) and the Optical Media Board (OMB). PAPT sternly enforces the rule of law and makes sure all lawbreakers are reprimanded. For more information, visit www.papt.org.ph

The Optical Media Board (OMB) embarks on this campaign in support of the Intellectual Property Rights Month this October. The OMB is tasked to regulate the manufacture of optical media in all its forms and impose fines and penalties for its illegal reproduction. For more information, visit www.omb.gov.ph

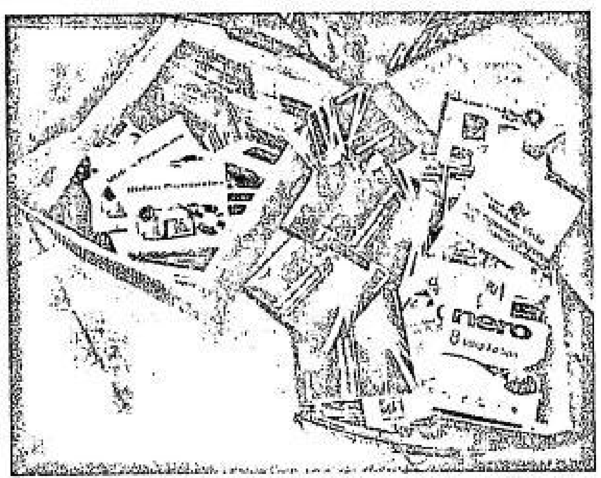
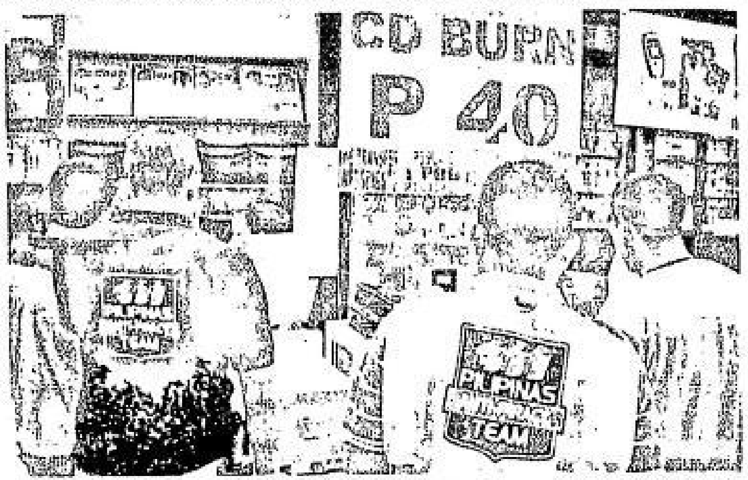


Photo shows pirated software seized during the enforcement activities of the PAPT. The anti-piracy campaign, in time for the IPR month, is expected to heighten in the coming weeks.



Agents of the PAPT conduct an inspection in one of the business establishments in the University area in Manila for unlicensed manufacture and distribution of pirated software.

PAPT Heightens Anti-piracy Campaign Against Software Pirates

Software pirates beware! You will be next.

The Pilipinas Anti-Piracy Team (PAPT) will not stop being on the look-out for copyright violators. This Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) month of October, the enforcement actions against companies and business establishments that continue to use unlicensed software will be heightened.

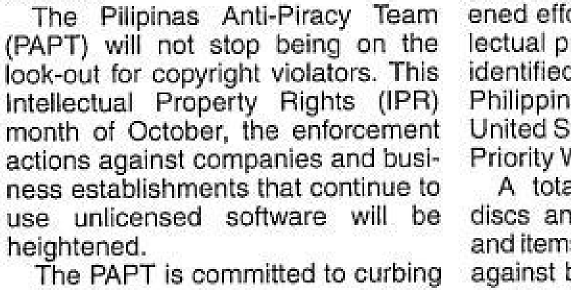
The PAPT is committed to curbing software piracy in the country. Software piracy has caused millions of pesos in lost revenue for the government as well as copyright owners. For the past year, the Philippines has a 71% piracy rate and losses due to piracy has already amounted to P5.59 billion-an alarming amount which greatly affects the country's economy. Because of the strengthened efforts of the PAPT, more intellectual property rights violators were identified and raided, resulting to the Philippines being taken out of the United States Trade Representative's Priority Watch list.

A total of 32,285 pirated optical discs and 420,500 other equipment and items were seized during the raids against business establishments who engage in software piracy. Establishments in Makati City, Parañaque City, Manila and Nueva Ecija were already subjected to raids. To date, a total of P11,299,750.00 worth of confiscated items were seized.

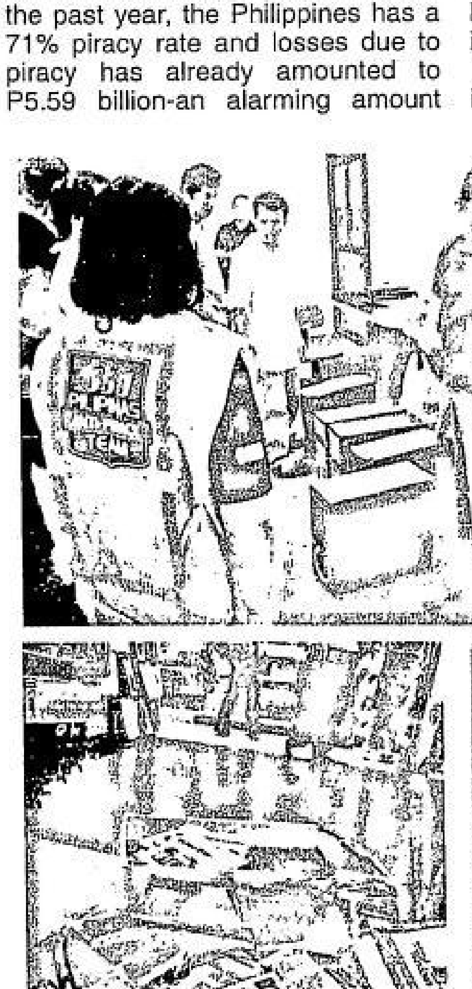
The IPR month is about to end but it doesn't mean that the PAPT will rest on its laurels. It is just getting started. The end of the IPR month is the start of a more heightened and aggressive campaign against piracy. More enforcement actions are expected to be exercised and more software pirates will fall into the hands of the authorities.

This strengthened campaign strongly encourages the public to take part in this drive against piracy. As of January this year, the Business Software Alliance has rewarded a total of seven informants, reporting companies practicing copyright infringement in their local communities. More than P500,000 has been given as a reward to these conscientious civilians, urging more to step-up and report establishments in efforts to battle the problems of software piracy in the country.

"The PAPT is strongly committed to conducting more enforcement actions against copyright infringers. We will not stop until piracy is completely eradicated and pirates are subjected to the proper punishment. Respect for IPR must be promoted and strictly implemented. We are expanding the reach of our enforcement actions to include other key cities where distribution and use of pirated unlicensed software is rampant," stated Edu Manzano, Optical Media Board (OMB) Chairman and PAPT spokesperson.



PAPT operatives sequester computers loaded with pirated software in a University Belt store as part of its strengthened anti-piracy campaign



Heightened Anti-piracy campaign. OMB operatives seize computers loaded with pirated software during an internet café raid in Park Square, Makati City.

An employee of a computer store in Gilmore looks in disbelief as agents of the Optical Media Board (OMB) conduct an inspection of pirated software and other optical media as part of its drive against piracy.

PAPT targets Internet cafés using unlicensed software

The Pilipinas Anti-Piracy Team (PAPT), a government -led organization which aims to curb software piracy in the country has sharpened its teeth against copyright violators. In a span of several weeks, simultaneous enforcement activities against Internet Cafes utilizing unlicensed software were carried out in different places in and out of the Metro.

PAPT operatives raided internet cafés in Makati City which were found to be using unlicensed software. Webian Internet Center and B-Connected Internet Café were found to be using counterfeit software. Five CPUs and one DVD writer used for manufacturing counterfeit purposes were seized.

More often than not, Internet Cafés are found utilizing unlicensed software. Unknowingly or not, some Internet shops reproduce multiple copies of unlicensed software. Counterfeit programs are installed in their hardware and used in their operations.

Other establishments raided in Makati City were Netopia Digital, Paradise Inc., Extreme Gaming Grounds, Larry Cart, City Walk, and Creativity Lounge Access Digital Graphic and Business Services Inc...

According to Edu Manzano, Chairman of the Optical Media Board (OMB) and official PAPT spokesperson, the enforcement activities of the PAPT will not end even as the IPR month draws to a close. "We are strengthening our campaign against software piracy and we will not stop until we have reached our goal of a piracy-free Philippines," Manzano said.

PAPT Hits Businesses Across the Philippines for Use of Pirated Software

Manila, Philippines -The Pilipinas Anti-Piracy Team (PAPT), a government-led organization that aims to curb software piracy in the country, directed its attention on stores that manufacture and distribute unlicensed software. Several establishments in Nueva Ecija, Manila, Quezon City and Makati were inspected by agents of PAPT where sacks of pirated software and optical discs were confiscated along with other paraphernalia.

Cellphone repair and computer shops in the Ayala MRT station were raided by PAPT operatives for unlicensed software use and distribution. Establishments involved were Malica Cellphone Accessories, Samjun Cellphone Repair, MTD Cellphone Shop, Filipinas Multi-Line Companies, China Geo Engineering Corporation and Jerlann CD & Computer Accessories where 11 sacks of optical discs were seized. Also confiscated also were two CPUs and two CD burners.

Also raided were stores in the University Mall in Taft Avenue in Manila. 49 sacks of pirated software and optical discs, along with computer units, CD burner and installers were sequestered by the operatives from stores 8 Warriors, 2 Rats for the Brats, 1st Edition, Optical Media Stall, Red Archer Trading, Game One, and Sardonyx Trading.

"We urge the public to be more conscientious in their purchase of software and optical disks and stop patronizing pirated products," says OMB Chairman and PAPT spokes person Edu Manzano.

The proliferation of counterfeit goods has continued to be a problem for the country. Pirated software and optical discs are all over stalls in different establishments in various parts of the Metro.

It is for this reason that the PAPT broadens its scope in the anti-piracy campaign. Establishments who violate the law by selling fake software and even parallel imports will be subject to enforcement actions. Copyright infringement is a hazard to the country's economic development as it deprives the government the proper tax revenue it needs, not to mention the downward slump of the creative sector in the country.

In time for the IPR month, the enforcement activities by the PAPT signals a more intensified effort in the crusade against IP violation and shows that the government is serious about its commitment to eradicate piracy in the Philippines.

Earn up to P1 Million now by reporting software pirates. Go to www.papt.org.ph

The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

China unveils new leadership lineup

BEIJING—CHINA'S RULING COMMUNIST PARTY unveiled a new leadership lineup on Monday, including two men positioned to eventually succeed President Hu Jintao and government head Premier Wen Jiabao.

Xi Jinping, who has been chief of Shanghai, and Li Keqiang, who has headed the northeast province of Liaoning, were lifted into the new nine-member Politburo Standing Committee—the innermost ring of power in this top-down state.

While Xi, 54, and Li, 52, have not been openly designated to replace Hu and Wen five years hence, their age and status leave no doubt they are favored to reach the apex of power.

They will inherit a nation with some 1.4 billion people, including restive peasants and a maturing middle class, an increasingly open and market-driven economy likely be the world's third largest and a one-party state that claims loyalty to Marx while it embraces capitalism.

"Comrades Xi Jinping and Li Keqiang are two quite young comrades," was all carefully spoken Hu said of them when presenting them before hundreds of reporters and flashing cameras.

Their rise marked Hu's growing grip on power as he shed the residual influence of his predecessor, Jiang Zemin. But the next five years will test Hu's power to secure an untroubled succession in an era when no leader commands absolute loyalty.

"Hu's power has emerged greatly consolidated," said Li Datong, a former editor at a Party paper. "He has his own lineup now; Jiang's out of the picture."

The nine men in dark suits emerged after a tightly controlled vote by the 204-member Party Central Committee, installed at the end of the Party's five-yearly Congress on Sunday.

Xi filed into the chamber at the Great Hall of the People directly ahead of Li, but there was no clear sign of which man was favored for which top job.

"Xi came out ranked first, so that suggests that he has a bigger chance of becoming Party general secretary, but there are a lot of factors that can change in five years," said Zhang Zuhua, a former official.

Hu was widely believed to favor Li, who worked under him in the Communist Youth League, and Xi's rise may reflect officials' reluctance to allow the Party boss to hand-pick his successor.

But both men would be acceptable to Hu, said the ex-editor Li, and state media have stressed that Hu expects the new leadership to work together and avoid damaging rivalry.

"There must be a politically resolute, staunchly unified and energetic and promising collective central leadership," the People's Daily—official voice of the Party—urged on Monday.

Hu stays as Party boss, as well as President and head of the Central Military Commission, for five more years, while Wen will continue managing the government and its ministries.

The Standing Committee retained parliament chief Wu Bangguo and two leaders installed under the previous Party chief, Jiang Zemin—Li Changchun, who has been propaganda boss, and Jia Qinglin, head of the advisory council attached to the parliament.

The lineup also includes He Guoqiang, set to take control of Party organization and fighting corruption, and Zhou Yongkang, whose background in policing puts him in line to replace Luo Gan, the previous domestic security boss.

The three members of the outgoing Standing Committee who stepped down included Vice-President Zeng Qinghong, a powerful figure installed by Jiang. Both He and Zhou have past work ties to Zeng, who appears to have promoted their rise.

The death of Vice-Premier Huang Ju in June left a fourth vacancy.

Analysts said the mixture of recruits—some personally close to Hu, others not—reflected his bid to balance regions and interests and also limits on his power to dictate outcomes. *Reuters*

China's new stars

China's Communist Party unveiled the new team to rule with President Hu Jintao, naming two leaders who could eventually replace him.

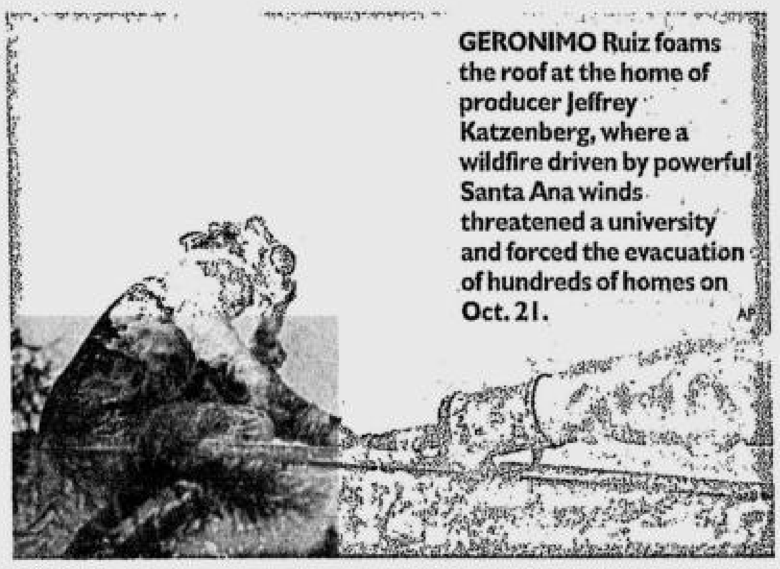
LI

Li Keqiang, 52
- Head of the north-eastern province of Liaoning
- Front runner to succeed Hu Jintao
- Served under Hu on the secretariat of the Communist Youth League
- Former head of Henan province

XI

Xi Jinping, 54
- Top official in financial powerhouse Shanghai
- The son of a veteran revolutionary
- Former head of Fujian and Zhejiang provinces

AP


GERONIMO Ruiz foams the roof at the home of producer Jeffrey Katzenberg, where a wildfire driven by powerful Santa Ana winds threatened a university and forced the evacuation of hundreds of homes on Oct. 21. AP

Wind-whipped fires hit Southern California

MALIBU, CALIFORNIA—WIND-whipped wildfires feeding on the driest brush in years erupted across Southern California on Sunday, destroying and damaging several homes and landmark buildings here and seriously injuring four firefighters near San Diego.

By late afternoon, nine fires had burned thousands of acres, and officials struggled to deploy firefighters to beat back the flames.

Nearly a thousand firefighters fought to gain control of the Malibu fire, which had burned 1,200 acres by early afternoon in a densely populated area. A stretch of Pacific Coast Highway was closed as smoke and flame billowed from the hillsides and canyons opposite the multimillion-dollar beach front homes of the rich and famous.

Los Angeles County officials said five homes and a church were destroyed and other commercial buildings damaged.

The flames were fanned by winds of 80 to 95 kilometers per hour, and winds much higher in passes and canyons. The cause of the fire, which began just before 5 a.m., was undetermined, though fire officials were looking into the possibility that downed power lines had played a role.

About 1,500 people were evacuated from their homes.

Weather forecasts that called for no break in the winds for a couple of days and increasing temperatures.

But Chief P. Michael Freeman of the Los Angeles County Fire Department said water-dropping helicopters had made "significant progress."

Still, Freeman said, county and state resources "are trying to deal with all these fires, and we are thin."

State and local officials have warned for months that the driest year on record in Los Angeles has made brush especially susceptible to fires.

Two large fires in San Diego County had burned 5,500 acres by mid-afternoon. In Potrero, an out-of-control fire killed one resident, burned four firefighters and injured several civilians, said Roxanne Provaznik, a spokesperson for the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

For a time, the fire here threatened Pepperdine University on the Pacific Coast Highway, but the campus was not evacuated and winds eventually blew the fire away from it.

This fire, though, is likely to be remembered as the one that destroyed two landmarks, the Malibu Presbyterian Church and the Castle Kashan or Hodges' Castle that overlooked the civic center and was the site of community functions. *NYT*

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WORLDBRIEFS

World religious leaders kick off peace summit

NAPLES, ITALY—LEADERS OF THE WORLD'S MAIN RELIGIONS KICKED off an annual interfaith peace summit here Sunday with calls for a global organization uniting their faiths. Orthodox Patriarch Bartholomew I, Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams, Israel's chief rabbi Yona Metzger and the imam of the United Arab Emirates, Ibrahim Ezzeddin, were among those attending the gathering. "Civilizations don't dialogue directly, but through those who carry their traditions and cultural values. So we should not speak of a dialogue of civilizations, but a culture of dialogue," Bartholomew told the opening. In a similar vein, Metzger proposed a "United Nations of Religions" that would "embrace the heads of religious communities that have a profound influence on their congregations." "If we sit down together around one table... surely we could arrive at effective solutions," he said. *AFP*

Putin tries to end feud in Russian security elite

PUTIN AFP

MOSCOW—RUSSIAN PRESIDENT VLADIMIR Putin has stepped in to try to smooth out feuding in his secret service power base that some observers say could spoil his plans for a trouble-free hand-over of power, newspapers said on Monday. Viktor Cherkesov, a Putin associate and head of the state antidrugs service, said this month there was internecine warfare inside the community of serving and ex-secret service officers that forms the bedrock of Putin's team. Cherkesov, an ex-state security agent issued the warning after the Federal Security Service (FSB), headed by another Putin ally Nikolai Patrushev, detained several senior officers in the antidrugs service on charges of corruption and abuse of office. Putin on Friday signed a decree giving extra powers to Cherkesov by forming an antidrugs committee similar to an antiterrorism committee that Patrushev heads, according to the Kremlin website. Russian newspapers said the move by Putin—who is to step down next year when his second term in office ends—was aimed at balancing the power of the two rivals. *Reuters*

Polish premier routed in record vote

WARSAW, POLAND—VOTERS APPEARED TO HAVE OUSTED THE PRIME minister, one-half of Poland's wonder-twin team, in parliamentary elections on Sunday. The challenger, Donald Tusk, declared victory for his probusiness party, Civic Platform. The prime minister, Jaroslaw Kaczynski, conceded defeat as two major exit polls showed his Law and Justice Party trailing Civic Platform by double-digit margins. His brother, Lech, will remain president and retain veto power over the presumptive new government's legislation. The coming days will decide the exact shape of that government. Official results are not expected until Tuesday, which could determine whether Civic Platform achieves an outright majority or more likely needs to form a coalition with the centrist Polish Peasants Party. With unofficial results, anything could happen, but Kaczynski congratulated his opponent after what appeared to be a significant defeat *NYT*

WHAT'S INSIDE

Red Sox cruise to World Series/A23

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SPORTS

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Raikkonen snatches Formula One crown/A24

Guiao sacked for one game

Uytengsu bewails rugged play

By Musong R. Castillo

THE RELAXED RULES IN DEFENSE OF the PBA have claimed some victims in just a week with at least one player carried out of a game, one ending with a busted lip, a coach getting suspended and some board members protesting.

Red Bull mentor Yeng Guiao was slapped a one-game suspension by the Commissioner's Office yesterday for charging at technical officials and shouting expletives after losing Friday against Barangay Ginebra.

Alaska's Reynel Hugnatan was unable to continue after suffering a nasty fall against Air21 Sunday night after Dondon Hontiveros was decked by a wayward elbow in an earlier game at the Araneta Coliseum.

Sta. Lucia board member Buddy Encarnado gave officials an earful also Sunday night before Alaska owner Wilfred Steven Uytengsu wrote chair Tony Chua to have the new rules evaluated.

Uytengsu blasted the PBA for adopting international rules that favor a tougher defense after its all-star team took a beating in the Fiba-Asia championship in Japan.

YENG Guiao

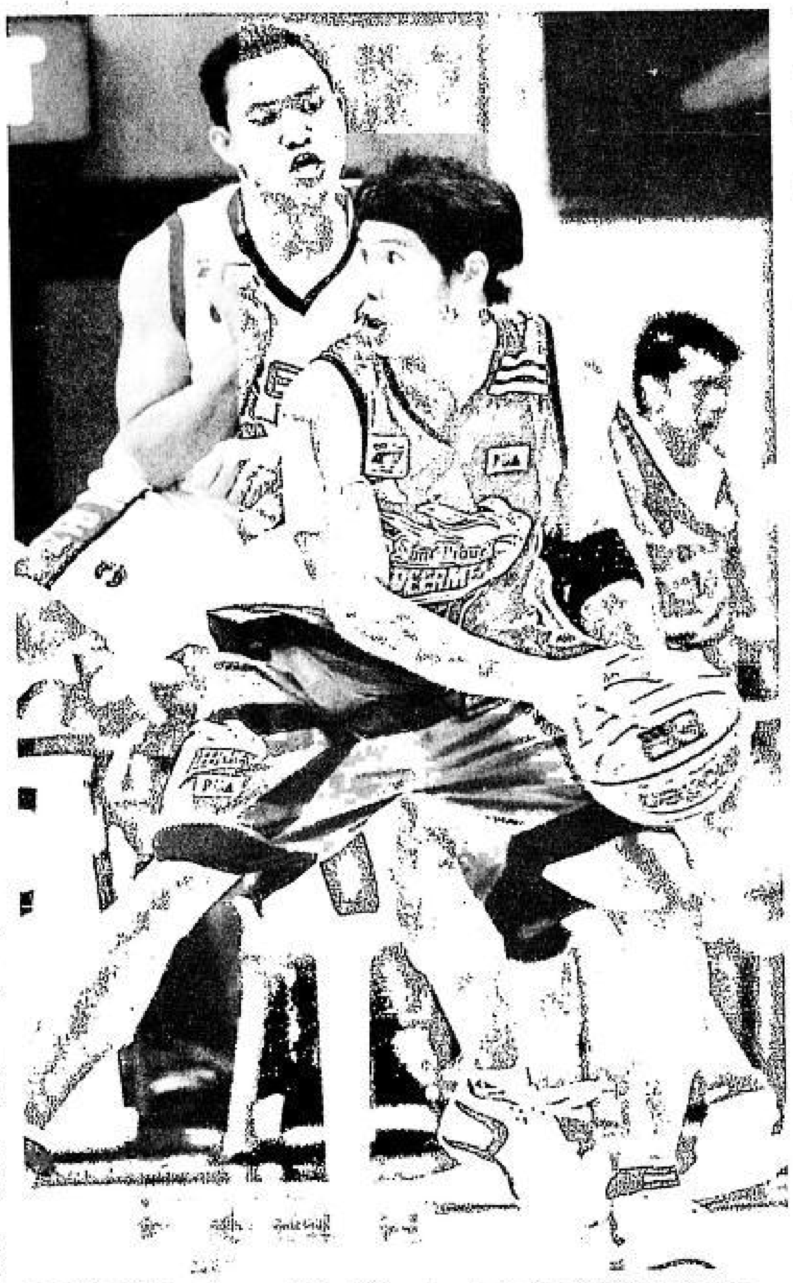
"The debacle of the national team in Japan was indeed unfortunate," Uytengsu wrote in a letter which he also furnished the INQUIRER. "The PBA has done the most to support a national team but should not have to bear the burden by making rule changes."

"Have we abandoned the strategic direction of the league," he asked Chua. "The conduct of the games since these rule changes have been instituted has resulted in some very hard and flagrant fouls."

The league, meanwhile, came down hard on Guiao, who aired his concerns over the new rules in a different way.

He will miss the Bulls' match with the Welcoat Dragons tomorrow at the Big Dome.

After the Ginebra-Red Bull game ended, Guiao walked across the court and berated Perry Martinez, the PBA technical group chief, over a confusion stemming from an inbound play by Ginebra.



DONDON Hontiveros of San Miguel protects the ball from Celino Cruz of Red Bull in this file photo. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Fil-Am ace Norwood gets going

GAMES TODAY (*Emilio Aguinaldo College gym*)
2 p.m.—Harbour Centre vs RP Team
4 p.m.—Hapee vs Mail and More

A FIL-AM ROOKIE HOTSHOT DEBUTS TODAY for a team seeking a major turnaround in the PBL this season.

Despite spending less than a week with his new squad, Gabe Norwood hopes to provide instant impact when Hapee Toothpaste opens its campaign against a Mail and More crew also boasting its own Fil-Am.

"I'll play whatever position my coach (Jun Noel) will tell me," said former Fiba Asia RP team mainstay Norwood, who will team up with collegiate stars Mark Borboran and Anthony Espiritu in the V-Go Extreme Energy Drink Cup game at 4 p.m. at the Emilio Aguinaldo College Gym in Manila.

Harbour Centre sends whatever is left of its once powerful squad at 2 p.m. against the National team preparing for the December Southeast Asian Games in Thailand.

Batang Pier loaned their core players—led by back-to-back Most Valuable Player Jason Castro—to the all-amateur RP team that will compete here as a guest entry and will carry the Harbour-RP banner.

To boost their chances for a fourth straight championship, Batang Pier have acquired Rico Maierhofer and TY Tang, key players in La Salle's recent UAAP title run.

The pair will be joined by fellow UAAP standouts Dylan Ababou, Japs Cuan, Chester Taylor and June Dizon of University of Santo Tomas, University of the East's Jorel Cañizares, National U's Edwin Asoro, Joseph Lingao-Lingao and Jonathan Jahnke and Far Eastern's Marlon Adolfo and Benedict Fernandez.

Hapee, the tailender of the last conference, made Norwood the top rookie pick this season but the 6-foot-5 guard returned to the country only last Wednesday.

Norwood claims he's in top shape by training at Penn State University in Pennsylvania after a stint with the all-pro RP team that played in the Fiba Asia championship last July. *Jasmine W. Payo*

Lady Stags, Lady Eagles dispute lead

SAN SEBASTIAN COLLEGE AND ATENEO, both with talented Thai imports, clash for the solo lead in the Shakey's V-League women's volleyball second conference today at The Arena in San Juan.

Coaches of both teams have admitted they are looking forward to the 3 p.m. match that will give the winner the top spot with a 2-0 card.

"Yes, their import is good but local support counts a lot," said SSC coach Roger Gorayeb after his Lady Stags snapped the two-game run of the Adamson Lady Falcons last Friday, 25-20, 25-18, 25-14.

Ateneo coach Ronald Dulay said today's match "will be a real test for us."

Jaroensri Bualee, the first conference Most Valuable Player, will lead San Sebastian anew while Ateneo will lean on Southeast Asian Games veteran Lithawat Kesinee

Kesinee debuted with 32 points, including 24 kills, when Ateneo beat powerhouse University of Santo Tomas on Sunday, 22-25, 25-22, 23-25, 25-19, 15-6.

In the second game, Far Eastern University goes for its third straight win against UST.

FEU dropped its opening-day match to Adamson but won the next two against Letran and Lyceum. *Romina S. Austria*

GAMES TODAY
(The Arena)
3 p.m.– San Sebastian vs Ateneo
5 p.m.–FEU vs UST

STANDINGS	W	L
S. Sebastian	1	0
Ateneo	1	0
Adamson	2	1
FEU	2	1
UST	1	1
La Salle	1	1
Lyceum	0	2
Letran	0	2

Pacman Int'l 9-Ball tomorrow

POOL MAESTRO Efren "Bata" Reyes and double world champion Ronnie Alcano will banner the cast of the inaugural Manny Pacquiao International 9-Ball Open beginning tomorrow.

The P2-million event will hold its qualifying round from Oct. 24-26 at the Hobbies of Asia building in Pasay City before moving to the SM Mall of Asia for the last 16 on Oct. 27.

Reyes, already enshrined in the billiards' Hall of Fame, and Alcano, second placer in the just-concluded 32nd US Open 9-Ball, will be joined by Francisco "Django" Bustamante, Dennis Orcollo, Marlon Manalo, Rodolfo Luat, Ramil Gallego, Warren Kiamco and Lee Vann Corteza.

The champion of the event honoring the boxing superstar wins P1 million while the runner-up pockets P500,000.

"We're expecting more than 100 participants, including some foreigners," said tournament director Julie Guevarra. "This could serve as a good practice before next month's World Pool Championship." *Marlon Bernardino*

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UAAP shows early might in Unigames

By Cedelf P. Tupas, *Inquirer Visayas*

BACOLOD CITY—DE LA SALLE LAUNCHED ITS BID FOR a ninth straight women's football crown in style by blanking University of the Philippines, 6-0, yesterday in the 12th Philippine University Games here.

Striker Fiona McKenzie registered a hat-trick as the Taft-based footbelles spearheaded the march of Big City teams on Day One of the week-long Games.

Ateneo, getting three goals from Gold Jacinto, crushed University of San Carlos, 7-0.

University of Santo Tomas was also in inspired form, coming away with a 5-0 rout of Silliman University. Notching the biggest win of the day, though, was Dumaguete-based Foundation University, which scored a 22-0 massacre of West Negros College.

In men's basketball, Ateneo and Far Eastern debuted in impressive fashion even as Colegio San Agustin-Bacolod stunned College of St. Benilde, 67-63.

With Bacolod recruit John Alisbo at the helm, the Tamaraws overcame a lethargic start to hammer out a 104-76 triumph over host University of St. La Salle at the USLS Coliseum.

Over at the Natalio Velez Gym in Silay City, Nonoy Baclao and Rabeh Al-Hussaini bullied their way to 21 and 18 markers respectively as the Blue Eagles trampled Mindanao State University-Marawi, 129-51, while University of Iloilo trounced Negros Oriental State U, 79-54.

ATENEO striker Gold Jacinto pressures USC keeper Maureen Bejoc as teammate Deb Sobrepeña (No. 7) looks on. ANDY ALVAREZ

In other games, WNC posted a 90-60 drubbing of Silliman, University of Mindanao nipped Angeles University Foundation, 90-86, and Ateneo de Davao came through with a tight 74-71 win over University of Northern Philippines.

Men's football at the Panaad pitch saw three-time defending men's champion St. La Salle beat UP, 2-0.

In men's volleyball, Adamson rallied past Colegio Purisima Concepcion, 22-25, 25-11, 25-12, 25-18, while Holy Cross of Davao College cruised past NORSU, 25-22, 25-13, 25-15. Rizal Technological U defeated University of San Carlos, 17-25, 25-19, 25-17, 25-23, before University of Iloilo triumphed over Ateneo de Manila, 25-17, 25-15, 18-25, 22-25, 15-9.

In women's play, Philippine Christian U overcame Foundation, 25-27, 19-25, 25-18, 25-20, while Iloilo Doctor's College walloped Silliman, 25-6, 25-11, 25-7 and University of San Jose-Recoletos smashed St. Louis U, 25-22, 25-15, 27-27.

Gymnasts give Manila POF crown

By June Navarro

Medal tally	G	S	B
Manila	65	52	52
Quezon City	60	42	30
Pasig	35	14	8
Muntinlupa	22	15	12
Parañaque	20	15	17
Marikina	19	24	30
Taguig	18	17	26
Mandaluyong	17	12	9
Las Piñas	12	28	12
Makati	6	9	5
Valenzuela	3	6	1
Pateros	3	3	4
Caloocan	3	2	1
San Juan	1	7	9

A GOLD MEDAL blitz in gymnastics dramatically swung the race for overall honors in favor of Manila at the close of the Philippine Olympic Festival-National Capital Region qualifying leg yesterday at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex.

Arielle Nichole Orella produced five of Manila's 18 golds in gymnastics and another victory in archery courtesy of Ronalyn Alvarez allowed the Manilans to overtake three-day frontrunner Quezon City by five triumphs overall.

Orella prevailed in the rope, ribbon, clubs, hoops and individual all-around of rhythmic gymnastics as Manila eventually topped the medal tally with 65 gold, 52 silver and 52 bronze medals.

Quezon City, which boasted of 59 gold medals the other day, could only come up with a single gold on the final day—a 70-64 triumph over Marikina in basketball to wind up second at the end of the week-long tournament. QC also had 42 silvers and 30 bronzes.

Rachelyn Astillar, Mage Wagan and Edmund Ilagan also helped Manila's cause by pocketing three gold medals each in rhythmic gymnastics while Cristina Onofre clinched two more in the same event.

Victories by Myla Rodriguez and Aethea Sibayan in the rhythmic category 2 team completed Manila's gymnastics domination.

Except for Muntinlupa's Jewel Ann De Castro, who won the gold in the 63-kilogram category, all gold medalists in judo did not represent a team or a city.

Taguig and Muntinlupa both won eight of the 23 golds in arnis. Marikina and Muntinlupa had five golds apiece in taekwondo.

Medalists in the qualifying stages—Northern-Central Luzon (Vigan, Ilocos Sur), Mindanao (Cagayan De Oro), Visayas (Iloilo City), NCR and Bicol-Southern Tagalog (Naga City)—will represent their respective regions in the national finals set Nov. 12 at the Rizal Memorial Complex.

RP jins capture 12 golds

THE PHILIPPINES BAGGED 12 GOLD medals, including four in the senior division, in the recent 8th Asean Taekwondo Federation Championships held in Ba Ria-Vung Tau, Vietnam.

Bantamweights Jeffrey Figueroa and Esther Marie Singson, lightweight Brix Darmo Ramos and welterweight Ernesto Juan Mendoza III led the winners in the two-day tournament.

The Smart/Petron team also won 9 silvers and 17 bronzes.

James Martin Luzuriaga and Christine Rose Virtudazon won the junior poomse silver and bronze medals, respectively, and then combined to take the bronze in pair poomse.

The other gold medalists:

Juniors—Sydney Darryl Crispino, fin; Jyra Marie Lizardo, fly; James Martin Luzuriaga, fly; Karla Jane Alava, feather; Garry del Rosario, welter; Dennis Resaba, light middle; Kirstie Elaine Alora, middle; and Christine Rosa Virtudazo, light heavy.

The silver medalists:

Seniors—Billy Joel Corral, fin; Carlos V, fly; Manuel Rivero Jr., light; Marlon Avenido, welter; Igon Ducay, middle; and Ma. Criselda Roxas, middle.

Juniors—Gyie Michael Genoso, bantam; Mark Reynald Dizon, light; and Ronald Golding Jr., welter.

The bronze winners:

Seniors—Gerrielyn Aranzanso, fin; Loraine Lorelie Catalan, fly; Emmanuel Alivio, bantam; Veronica Domingo, welter; Katherine Ann Bunyi, heavy; and Michael Alejandrino, heavy.

Juniors—Kim Aldrin Ammay, fly; R-jay del Rosario, bantam; Mira Taculog, bantam; Kathleen Estrabo, bantam; Marigold Taculog, feather; Nicole Mapilisan, feather; Allen Roy Unson, light; Mary Joannina Langit, welter; Marifi Violeta Gadit, welter; Alexander Alivio, light middle; and Emron Mae Golding, light middle.

Ting, Salgados rule Shell chess

MARVIN TING CLINCHED THE JUNIORS CROWN despite a final-round setback to Vic Neil Villanueva while Lennon Hart Salgados swept his last four games to capture the kiddies plum in the Shell National Youth Active Chess Championships 2007 grand finals at SM Megamall over the weekend. Ting, who hurdled his first four matches in the 20-under division, dropped two of his last five games but pulled through just the same with two wins and a draw.

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Registration: 8:00am – 8:30am

Session 1: 8:30am-9:30am
Marketing's Value to Consumers, Firms, and Society Marketing Strategy Planning
Seminar Director/Speaker:
***Dr. Marivic Ac-ac** – Chairperson, Department of Marketing Management San Beda College*

Session 2: 9:30am-10:30am
Evaluating Opportunities in the Changing Marketing
- Analysis of the External Environment
  - The key external influences on the organization
  - Emerging trends and their impact on the organization
- Analysis of the Internal Environment
  - Assessing the internal environment
  - Developing the SWOT Matrix
- Industry and Competitive Analysis
  - Evaluating the Industry and Competition
  - Strategic Positioning

Speaker: ***Ms. Karen De Asis** – Consultant*

Session 3: 10:30am-11:30 am
Defining the business: The Mission, Objectives and Corporate Values
Speaker: TBA

Session 4: 11:30 am-12:30 pm
Focusing Marketing Strategy with Segmentation and Positioning
- Developing the Segmentation & Target-ing Strategy
- Developing the Market Positioning Strategy

Speaker: TBA

LUNCH BREAK 12:30 pm-1:30 pm

Session 5 1:30 pm-3:30 pm
Deploying the Marketing Mix: The Marketing Toolbox and Applying it!
- The marketing toolbox
- Applying the marketing toolbox

Speaker: ***Ms. Arlene Martinez***
Country General Manager
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Mayor Peewee Trinidad writes

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

I WOULD lIKE TO APOLOGIZE TO THE readers for failing to acknowledge their letters on time. It's because I seldom go to the office to pick up my mails.

Among the letter-senders were Negros Occidental Rep. Jose Carlos "Kako" Lacson, who filed House Bill 2265 which seeks to grant benefits and incentives to differently abled athletes who give honor and recognition to the country by winning in international competitions; and Pasay City Mayor Wenceslao "Peewee" Trinidad, a former boxing judge, who "painfully parted ways with boxing."

Some of the other letters came from Isabelo Filomeno of Cagayan de Oro City, who requested for a list of Filipino basketball Olympians from 1936 up to the time we last played in the Olympic Games; and Paul Mortel of Marikina City, who fully agreed with the clamor to name Robert Jaworski, also known as the Big J, as the "most eligible to be the next PBA commissioner." He said the Big J has the wealth of experience, integrity and discipline needed for that post.

Also, former Philippine Olympic Committee president, the tireless retired Col. Julian Malonso, provided the names of past and present POC presidents for the benefit of those wanting to know. Said he: "President Manuel Quezon was the first elected president of the defunct Philippine Amateur Athletic Federation (PAAF), forerunner of the POC. The others who headed the POC were: Jorge B. Vargas, Antonio delas Alas, Felipe Monserrat, Ambrosio Padilla (resigned), Nereo Andolong (ousted), Julian Malonso (succeeded), Michael Keon (resigned), Gov. Jose Sering (succeeded), Gen. Rene Cruz, Cristina Ramos Jalasco (ousted), Celso Dayrit (succeeded, later elected) and former Rep. Jose 'Peping' Cojuangco."

* * *

In his letter, Mayor Trinidad said: "It's been a long, long time, since I, like you, painfully parted ways with boxing. Not surprisingly, for the same reasons.

"My father was a boxing judge. I also became a boxing judge during the golden days of boxing which I feel we will never come back to. I had the fortune of judging the worst and the best. Those who come to mind are Archie Moore, Flash Elorde, Rolando Navarette, Kaneko, Boysaw and many other Filipinos who eventually became Oriental and world champions.

"Then, I saw it at ringside. At the Rizal Football Stadium, in the middle of the sixth round, Carlos Ortiz caught Elorde with a right cross to the chin which stopped Flash for a few seconds. He got hurt. But by staying away, the Flash lasted 15 rounds. Again, months later, the Flash was knocked out by Ortiz in a rematch.

"Flash knew when to quit. He was managed properly. How many boxers now have the same kind of managers? How many boxers now allow themselves to be boxed silly for a few pesos? I've seen boxers throw up '*pancit*' inside the ring. This shows how poorly they are fed. I agree with you."

* * *

A former Letran professor and president of the National Collegiate Athletic Association in 1932-1933, Fr. Antonio Varona Ortega (not Barona as we first reported here last June 12) will be beatified, together with 497 others, by Pope Benedict XVI on Oct. 28… Photokina executive Raffy Casyao will mark another milestone tomorrow. Happy birthday to you my friend and may you be blessed always.

* * *

My most recent column, "PBA unfair to Jaworski?" (PDI, 10/16/07) contained an erroneous sentence that said, "Most diehard fans now remember the PBA more for its failures than for its successes during the good old days when the much respected Leo Prieto was at the helm."

The sentence should have read: "Most diehard fans now remember the PBA more for its failures than for its successes, unlike during the good old days when the much respected Leo Prieto was at the helm."

RACING

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Tri)—Bonita Blanca (4), Buboyski (3), Rock Hard (5)
Race 2—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Ho Ho Ho (1), Gonfalon Story/Kimagure (4), Given (5), Red Hot Water (2), Red Diamond (7)
Race 3—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Mr. Godfather (3), Tucker Pride (8), Instant (7), League Leader (2), Twin Star (5)
Race 4—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Smashing Success/Noble Principality (1), Music Quest (8), She Boom (4), Sovereign Dancer (3), Heart of Wind (2), Asimegoesby (7)
Race 5—(Qrt/Tri)—Rockwell (2), King Foppy (1), Mr. Diego (7), Golden Lass (4)
Race 6—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Santiago (7), Ilan-
llang Queen (8), Powerhouse (2), Term
nator (3), Long Hitter (5)
Race 7—(Qrt/Tri)—Mandalay Bay (5), Nama
Naman (2), JJ's Friend (7), Join th
Saints (3)
Race 8—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Valid Hazm (9
Jay Nicole (12), Angle Red (1), Spri
Rose (10), Speed Admiral (8), Spanis
Drums (7)

Red Sox cruise to World Series

Down Indians for AL pennant

BOSTON—THE BOSTON RED SOX ADvanced to the World Series with a crushing 11-2 victory over the Cleveland Indians at Fenway Park on Sunday, taking the American League Championship Series by a 4-3 margin with the Game Seven victory.

The Red Sox scored six runs in the bottom of the eighth inning to blow open the contest and complete a stunning rally from a 3-1 series deficit.

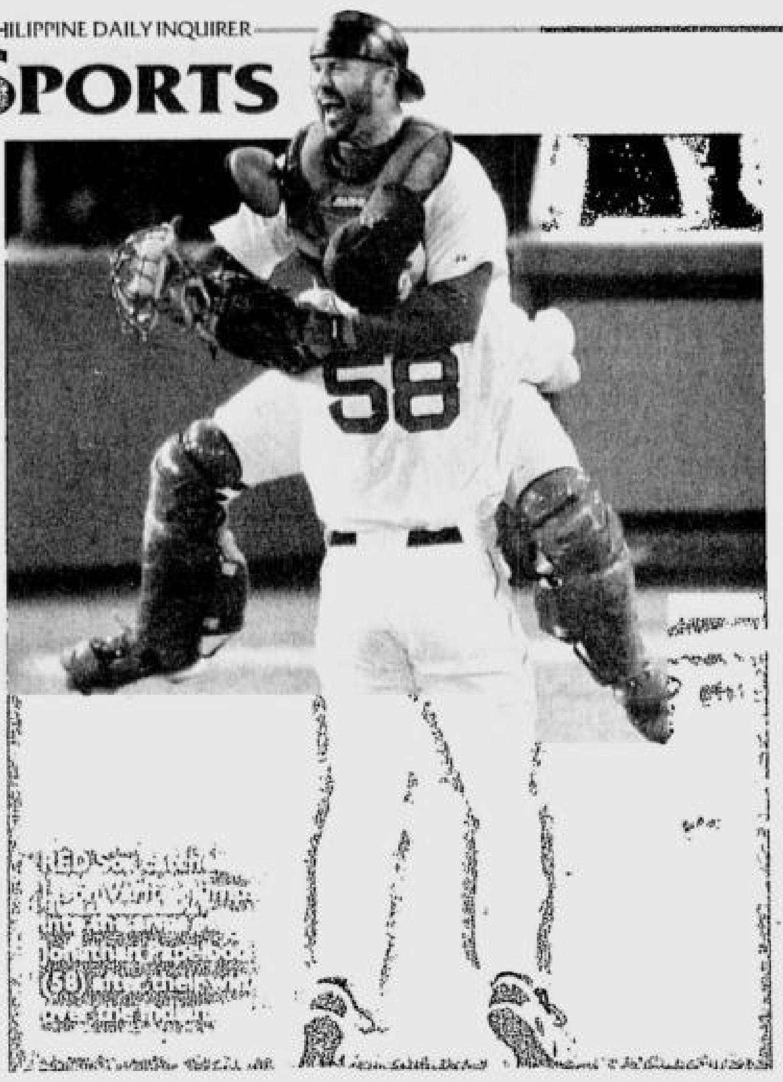
"We did it. We came back as a team, all 25 of us," Boston closer Jonathan Papelbon told reporters.

Boston will be making its 11th appearance at the World Series when it hosts the Colorado Rockies in Game One on Wednesday, the Red Sox aiming to win a second title in four seasons after their triumph in 2004.

Second baseman Dustin Pedroia led the offensive onslaught, blasting a two-run home run in the seventh inning and a three-run double in the eighth as Boston outscored Cleveland 40-8 in its four victories in the series.

On the mound, Japanese rookie Daisuke Matsuzaka worked the first five innings to pick up his first post-season victory, while Papelbon pitched the last two innings for the save.

The game ended on a sensational catch by Coco Crisp in deep right-centerfield, triggering wild celebrations on the field as the sellout crowd roared from the stands. *Reuters*



Nalbandian rips Federer

MADRID, SPAIN—ROGER FEDERER should have seen it coming.

Federer was beaten, 1-6, 6-3, 6-3, by David Nalbandian in Sunday's Madrid Masters final, the second time this year the Swiss No. 1 had made history by losing.

Nalbandian, who beat No. 2 Rafael Nadal and No. 3 Novak Djokovic to reach the final, broke Federer three times and became the second player this year to beat the top-three players en route to winning a title. Djokovic also did it with a victory over Federer in Montreal in August, 13 years after Boris Becker had previously done it.

"I usually play better in the finals, but it had something to do with the way he played today," said Federer, the defending champion. "I guess when you beat Djokovic and Nadal back-to-back, you come into the final here very ready."

The 25th-ranked Nalbandian won his first title since the Estoril Open in May 2006. He had to shake off a sluggish start that saw Federer break him in the fourth and sixth games. *AP*

Park, Brodett nail match play top seedings

Men's Division: 7 a.m.—R. Littaua vs. E. Solon, 7:10—L. Tojino vs. M. Ilagan, 7:20—J. Tuason vs. C. Raymundo, 7:30—M. Rivera vs. A. Avena, 7:40—R. Mangulabnan vs. J. Tan, 7:50—R. Garcia vs. L. Magpantay, 8 a.m.—I. Clavecilla vs. T. De Jesus, 8 a.m.—Park JS vs. Min KS

Seniors: 7 a.m—F. Locsin vs. B. Sumbilla, 7:10—S. Kato vs. R. Brizuela 7:20—E. Rendon vs. P. Lim, 7:30—P. Brodett vs. A. Vasquez

PARK: Solid round

GEN. TRIAS, CAVITE—Reigning champion Park Jung-soo of Eastridge and Philip Brodett of Canlubang grabbed the top seedings in their respective divisions after turning in solid rounds yesterday in the stroke play qualifying phase of the National Tournament of Club Champions at the Eagle Ridge Golf and Country Club here.

Park scored a 75 at the dreaded Dye course, bucking a slow start with a one-under stint in the back nine which carried him past Alabang bet Iggy Clavecilla in the countback for the No. 1 spot in the regular men's division seedings.

Brodett took charge with a 77 at the Faldo course, where the seniors division action was held, towing the eight qualifiers into today's match play stage of the tournament presented by HSBC and INQUIRER Golf.

Toyota is a major backer while Coca-Cola, Titleist, Callaway and Pocari Sweat are hole sponsors.

In the special division, Koo Jaemin of Eagle Ridge and Crystal Superal of Orchard posted similar 79s.

All 16 men's entries return for the match play stage at Faldo today. The top eight among the seniors advanced and only the top four in the special divisions stayed alive.

The ladies qualifying, meanwhile, will be held today at the Norman course with 16 entries battling for eight slots.

Winners in the three regular divisions will win all-expense paid trips to Singapore where they will be VIPs in the inaugural edition of the HSBC Women's Champions event.

The scores:

Men's Regular—75 Jung Soo Park, 75 Iggy Clavecilla, 78 Raffy Garcia, 79 Rodel Mangulabnan, 79 Mark Riviera, 80 Jingy Tuason, 80 Larry Tojino, 81 Ronnie Littaua, 82 Enrico Solon, 82 Marty Ilagan, 83 Chino Raymundo, 84 Abe Avena, 90 Jessie Tan, 91 Lino Magpantay, 92 Tootsie de Jesus, 100 Koh Seng Min

Seniors—77 Philip Brodett, 80 Ed Rendon, 82 Sengyo Kato, 83 Frankie Locsin, 84 Boni Sumbilla, 86 Rico Brizuela, 86 Pacifico Lim, 88 Andy Vaquez, 88 Jumaquio, 89 Art Ampaya, 89 Tony dela Cruz, 91 Mike Ilano, 92 Nonoy Llamas, 99 David, 93 Villanueva

Ayala Alabang golfers eye grand finals berth today

DEFENDING CHAMPION AYALA Alabang tries to secure one of three slots to the grand finals of the MyPhone Presents The 16th Intervillage Golf Tournament when the South qualifying concludes today at the Canlubang Golf and Country Club.

Led by Alex Escalona's 35 points, Ayala Alabang edged BF Resort by a point in the first round held two weeks ago at Sherwood Hills Golf and Country Club.

Still in the running are Hillsborough, Better Living/Don Bosco/Levitown, BF Homes, Tahanan and Pilar.

The three South qualifiers will join North qualifiers Don Enrique Heights and Monte Vista/Cinco Hermanos to the grand finals beginning Nov. 13 at Summit Point with another round set Nov. 19 at the Mt. Malarayat Golf and Country Club in Lipa City.

Each team is allowed to field 12 players, but only eight will count under the Stableford format.

MyPhone of Solid Group Inc. is sponsoring the annual series.

SPORTSWATCH

75 matches up as LGBA derby gets going

THE FINAL ROUND OF LUZON GAMECOCK BREEDERS ASSOCIATION (LGBA) stag derby series fires off today at the Araneta Coliseum with the first of 75 matches set at 2 p.m. Of the 342 breeders who joined the three-leg series, 75 survived and will see action in today's 2-stag round. The 4-stag championship round sizzles on Thursday. Mimi Itchon and Joey Abaquita of Rizal (JA Sudden Strike MI) lead the LGBA Gamecock Breeder of the Year race with 12 points.

Clean-Up stagfest kicks off Nov. 3 at Roligon

THE NUMBER OF CONFIRMED ENTRIES WITH COCKHOUSE RESERVAtions continues to rise for the upcoming Clean-Up 4-Stag Derby slated Nov. 3 at Roligon Mega Cockpit. No less than P500,000 in guaranteed prizes awaits the winners. Entry fee is P8,800, said host Rolly Ligon, who will have Riochi Saito and Abu Centeno as co-promoters. Centeno will also act as Roligon's new pit manager from Nov. 3. For inquiries, call 851-2275 or 852-9812.

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
DY Int'l Bldg., 1650 San Marcelino
cor. General Malvar St., Malate, Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s:

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National/Citizenship	Position
OAKLEIGH CAPITAL LTD. 21/F The Enterprise Center, Tower II, 6766 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Boi Nhi Chung Vietnamese	Chinese-language Sports Trader
OAKLEIGH CAPITAL LTD. 21/F The Enterprise Center, Tower II, 6766 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Thien Bao Vong Vietnamese	Chinese-language Sports Trader
OAKLEIGH CAPITAL LTD. 21/F The Enterprise Center, Tower II, 6766 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Kalim Woeng Indonesian	Chinese-language Sports Trader
OAKLEIGH CAPITAL LTD. 21/F The Enterprise Center, Tower II, 6766 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Febianto Indonesian	Chinese-language Sports Trader
OAKLEIGH CAPITAL LTD. 21/F The Enterprise Center, Tower II, 6766 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Eddy Hartono Indonesian	Chinese-language Sports Trader
OAKLEIGH CAPITAL LTD. 21/F The Enterprise Center, Tower II, 6766 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Thanh Duy Nguyen Vietnamese	Chinese-language Sports Trader
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OAKLEIGH CAPITAL LTD. 21/F The Enterprise Center, Tower II, 6766 Ayala Ave. Makati City	Marbun Widarso Indonesian	Chinese-language Sports Trader
OAKLEIGH CAPITAL LTD. 21/F The Enterprise Center, Tower II, 6766 Ayala Ave. Makati City	Dermawan Ida Indonesian	Chinese-language Sports Trader
CITY & CARS MOTORS AND REPAIRS INC. 398 Real St., Alabang-Zapote Rd., Las Piñas City	Fanghu Guo Chinese	Branch Manager
CITY & CARS MOTORS AND REPAIRS INC. 398 Real St., Alabang-Zapote Rd., Las Piñas City	Weidi Yang Chinese	Marketing Manager
CITY & CARS MOTORS AND REPAIRS INC. 398 Real St., Alabang-Zapote Rd., Las Piñas City	Nengzhuan Shi Chinese	Operation Manager
CITY & CARS MOTORS AND REPAIRS INC. 398 Real St., Alabang-Zapote Rd., Las Piñas City	Jianting Shi Chinese	Technical Supervisor
CITY & CARS MOTORS AND REPAIRS INC. 398 Real St., Alabang-Zapote Rd., Las Piñas City	Xinxin Wu Chinese	Marketing Manager
BAYVIEW TECHNOLOGIES, INC. 43/F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, Makati City	Mayuko Toshikuni Japanese	Customer Support Manager - (Multi-lingual)
OAKLEIGH CAPITAL, LIMITED 21/F The Enterprise Center, Tower II, Ayala Ave., Makati City	Hermanto Tio Indonesian	Chinese-language Customer Service Officer
OAKLEIGH CAPITAL, LIMITED 21/F The Enterprise Center, Tower II, Ayala Ave., Makati City	Teddy Liman Indonesian	Chinese-language Sports Trader
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OAKLEIGH CAPITAL, LIMITED 21/F The Enterprise Center, Tower II, Ayala Ave., Makati City	Rudi Halim Bong Indonesian	Chinese-language Sports Trader
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OAKLEIGH CAPITAL LTD. 21/F The Enterprise Center, Tower II, 6766 Ayala Ave. Makati City	Chinh Huy Duong Vietnamese	Chinese-language Sports Trader

If you have any information/objection to the abovementioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

RAYMUNDO G. AGRAVANTE
OIC, Regional Director

(PDI-October 23, 2007)

Warm welcome for world rugby champs

ESBURG—SOUTH AFRICAN PRESIDENT THABO MBEKI SUNDAY URGED his countrymen to give the Springboks a tumultuous welcome when the newly crowned rugby world champions return from France.

"They have done the country very proud... I think all of us need to ... salute," the team, he said. "When they come back we must all of us join them in the celebrations that are planned." The Boks were crowned champions for the second time after beating former champions England 15-6 in the final in Paris on Saturday. AFP

Raikkonen snatches Formula One crown

SAO PAULO, BRAZIL—KIMI Raikkonen is known as "The Iceman," and he more than kept his cool Sunday, winning the Brazilian Grand Prix and capturing the Formula One title in the tightest race for the championship in 21 years.

Raikkonen won his first F1 crown by taking advantage of Lewis Hamilton's mistake on the first lap and a subsequent gear box problem with the Briton's McLaren, combined with Fernando Alonso's disappointing run.

The Ferrari driver took the lead with 21 laps to go, rallying from third in the drivers' standings to win the closest title race since 1986. Teammate Felipe Massa was second in Sunday's race.

"We had very good speed in both cars," Raikkonen said. "We're just taking it easy, saving the tires and the cars. We could have gone much faster it we wanted to. It was perfect teamwork from the team and it paid off very well. It's not only been in this race, but the whole year."

Hamilton, trying to become the first rookie to win the title and F1's youngest champion, went off the track on the first lap and struggles with car problems to finish seventh. Alonso could not keep up with the pace of the leaders and finished third.

Alonso would have had to finish second and Hamilton fifth to keep Raikkonen from winning the drivers' championship after his victory.

There were some doubts after the race whether Raikkonen would keep the title, however, as motorsport governing body, FIA, opened an investigation into possible fuel irregularities.

FIA called a meeting involving representatives from BMW-Sauber and Williams, whose drivers finished fourth, fifth, sixth and 10th. If at least two of them were punished, Hamilton could have moved to fifth place and taken the title.

Nearly six hours after the race, FIA said there was not enough evidence to penalize the drivers or the teams.

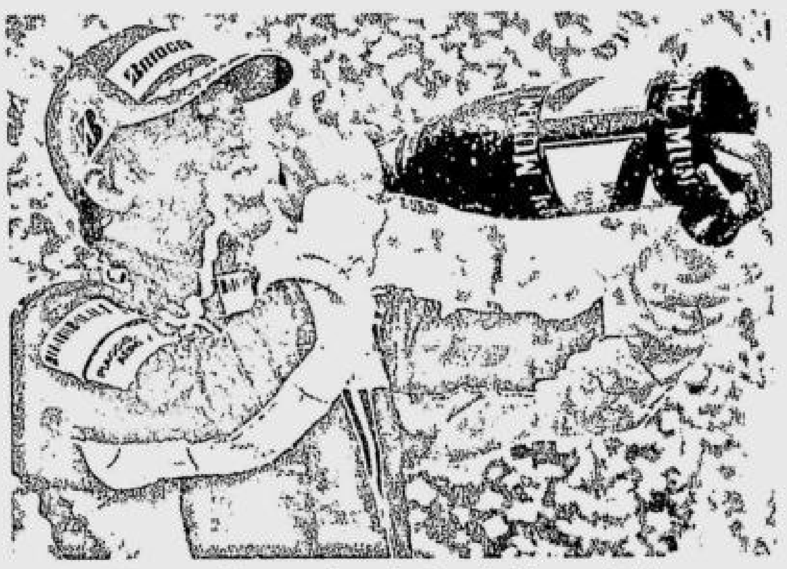
Raikkonen erased a seven-point gap from Hamilton coming into the race to finish with 110 points, one more than Hamilton and Alonso.

Raikonnen finished the race on the 4.3-kilometer (2.6-mile) Interlagos track in 1 hour, 28 minutes, 15.270 seconds—1.493 seconds ahead of Massa and 57.019 ahead of Alonso.

Raikkonen—who finished runner-up in the drivers' championship in 2003 and '05—became only the third Finn to win the F1 title, and the first since two-time winner Mika Hakkinen in 1998 and '99. The first Finn champion was Keke Rosberg in 1982.

It was a hectic start for the Brazilian GP.

Hamilton, who started in the front row beside pole-sitter Massa, was passed by Raikkonen and Alonso on the first turn. He then made a mistake trying to recover the position from Alonso three turns later to drop to eighth spot after the first lap was finished. *AP*



KIMI Raikkonen celebrates after winning the F1 overall title. AP

McLaren Mercedes-Benz plans appeal

SAO PAULO—THE MCLAREN MERCEDES-BENZ FORMULA ONE TEAM said Sunday night it was ready to appeal a stewards decision at the Brazilian Grand Prix, keeping alive Briton Lewis Hamilton's F1 title dream.

The team made the decision following the stewards' decision not to punish the BMW Sauber and Williams teams for using allegedly irregular fuel during Sunday's race, won by Ferrari's Kimi Raikkonen to claim the drivers' title.

McLaren officials notified the FIA of their intention to appeal the race stewards' decision not to penalize BMW Sauber and Williams within an hour of the decision, which had appeared to seal the title for the Finn. *AFP*

MOTORING TIPS
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Driving Words to the Wise Driver

Maintenance may sound too tedious for life on the fast lane. But come crunch time, it spells the difference between costly repairs from repairs that cost less. These simple tips can save you time, energy and money spent at your local pit stop for maintenance and repairs.

1. Don't pedal to the metal – Easy Schumacher, the whole point of driving is not to outrun. The goal is to get from point A to point B safely and on time. The harder you step on the pedal, the more fuel you use. Cruise smoothly and go easy on the brakes.

2. The earlier the bird, the lesser the road rage - Rush hour traffic can turn any calm motorist into mad max. Traffic costs you more than half of your patience and regular fuel consumption, and guess what? You can't do anything about it. Keep your cool and save fuel by avoiding rush hour as much as possible. Schedule your trips wisely.

3. Roll up the windows - Open windows cause unnecessary drag that not only slows you down when running at high speeds, it increases fuel consumption. Simply roll up your windows to speed up and save up.

4. Check ups against hiccups – To avoid frequent and costly engine hiccups, maintain regular check-ups on your engine and car body. Oil change, general tune ups and cleaning of air filters every three months optimizes engine performance and saves you fuel by up to 10%.

5. Fill 'er up right - Use the right kind of oil or fuel as specified by your car manufacturer. It's best to fill your gas in the morning or late at night when the car's engine is not too hot. Avoid small fuel fills because gas evaporates every time you open the fuel cap.

6. Choose your car wisely - The type of car dictates the overall driving experience. If your priority is fuel economy, choose a compact, high-performance yet fuel efficient car. A good example of such a car is the new Suzuki Alto. Not only does it meet world safety and emissions regulations, it gives you more mileage with its 20.43km/Liter consumption. Plus, with a 735 kg curb weight you can carry on at high speeds in complete comfort and ease.

Suzuki Philippines, known for its quality high-performance yet fuel efficient vehicles, affordability, safety and environment-friendliness, not only promotes driving convenience and efficiency but also advocates responsible driving to motorists all over the country.

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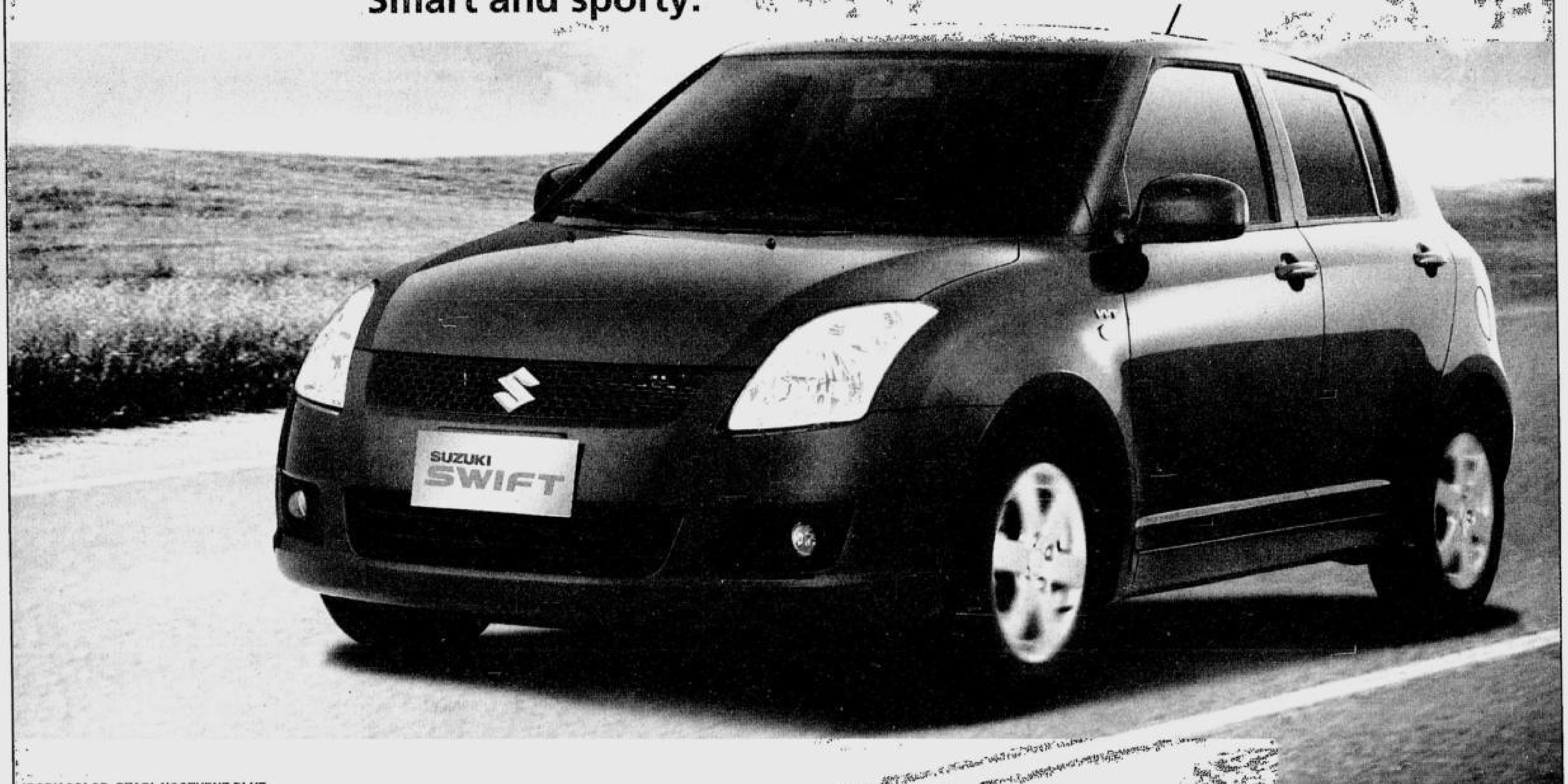

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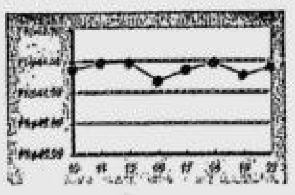

OCTOBER
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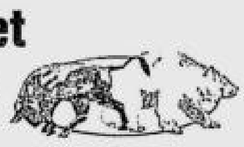

- **Manila Ocean Park** seen attracting P1B in investments /B5

Regional equity markets track Wall St.'s slide

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson and Doris C. Dumlao

STOCK PRICES PLUNGED 3.98 PERCENT YESTERDAY, with investors cashing out after Wall Street's heavy losses at the end of last week and amid local security concerns, dealers said.

They said the security fears followed an explosion at the Glorietta shopping mall in Makati City last Friday that left 11 people dead and wounded more than 100.

The benchmark PSE index ended down 151.88 points at 3,667.87, off the day's low of 3,626. A total of 6.1 billion shares worth P5,6 billion changed hands.

Losers overwhelmed gainers, 144 to 5, while 19 stocks ended flat.

"I think the political risk has risen, but it's really a confluence of events including the Dow's significant correction Friday," ATR Kim Eng Securities head of research Edgar Bancod said.

"We don't think it's a crisis of confidence on the economy. The economic fundamentals are intact. We haven't concluded that there will be more (bombings)," Jose Vistan, head of research at AB Capital Securities said.

Analysts said a host of negative news—which included weakness in corporate earnings in the United States and oil prices hitting $90 a barrel—dampened investor sentiment yesterday.

"Inflation has not really budged since this is offset by the peso's strength, which is also offsetting higher oil prices. If there is further deterioration in the political environment, that could change and the peso could come under pressure," Bancod said.

Astro del Castillo, First Grade Holdings managing director, said that the stock market's fall yesterday was brought on by the weakness in regional markets.

But it was a different story on the foreign exchange front.

The peso regained from an initial weakness to close higher at 44.115 to a dollar yesterday from Friday's 44.24.

The peso opened weak at 44.33 and hit the day's low of 44.45 in morning trading as jitters over the Glorietta

STOCKS/B4

Gov't rejects all bids for treasury bills

By Michelle V. Remo

THE GOVERNMENT REJECTED ALL bids for treasury bills during yesterday's auction as the market, spooked by a volatile peace-and-order situation, sought higher yields that Treasury officials said were too much.

Had the Bureau of the Treasury's auction committee accepted the bids, the rate for the three-month securities would have risen by 19.9 basis points to 3.957 percent. The 91-day bills were also undersubscribed as tenders reached only P1.2 billion compared with the government's offering of P1.5 billion.

The rate for the 182-day bills would have risen by 27.2 basis points to 5.084 percent had the bids been accepted. Tenders for the six-month government securities amounted to P2.44 billion, higher than the debt offering of P2 billion.

The 364-day bills would have fetched 5.937 percent, or 30.9 basis points higher than the rate recorded in last auction two weeks ago, had the Treasury accepted the bids. Tenders totaled P3.14 billion, higher than the debt offering of P2.5 billion but were also deemed uncompetitive as the bids for the 182-day bills.

Deputy Treasurer Eduardo Mendiola said an increase in treasury bill rates was acceptable if the yields sought by bidders were reflective of rates recorded in the secondary market. He said, however, that there was no trading of government securities in the secondary market at this time, showing disinterest by investors.

"There were many things happen-

GOV'T/B4

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'BIBLE' FOR DISTRIBUTION UTILITIES

Energy regulator set to amend open access rules

By Abigail L. Ho

THE ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION will be amending the Distribution Services and Open Access Rules (DSOAR), to ensure that these guidelines will conform to previous ERC issuances and with existing laws and regulations.

ERC chair Rodolfo Albano Jr. said modifications to be made on the existing DSOAR would "harmonize" it with ERC issuances, such as the Philippine Grid Code, Philippine Distribution Code, Magna Carta for Residential Electricity Consumers and the Wholesale Electricity Spot Market Rules.

He added that the DSOAR should likewise be able to work in synergy with the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' interest rate policy and, most especially, the Constitution.

"The amendments will also ensure smooth transition to a competitive regime, whereby electricity consumers will have the power to choose their electricity supplier/provider," Albano said.

The DSOAR will serve as the distribution utilities' "bible," setting the guidelines for the provision of services for both the captive and contestable markets in an open access regime.

Once open access is implemented, the market will be divided into captive and contestable categories. The captive market is composed of power users that have no choice of power supplier. The contestable market, on the other hand, is made up of users that can choose which power suppliers will provide electricity to them.

Under the DSOAR, distribution utilities should be ready to provide a variety of services to captive and contestable markets "in a reliable, efficient and economical manner."

In the contestable market, distribution utilities have to provide unbundled distribution wheeling service to retail electricity suppliers, the supplier of last resort, other distribution utilities, generators and DCAS to end-users.

In the captive market, the DSOAR requires distribution utilities to provide similar services as in the current market. Apart from those services, the rules also require all distribution utilities to make available, upon reasonable request, "all regulated services at rates, terms and conditions that are just and equitable to all customers."

ALBANO

The guidelines likewise sets conditions for the supplier of last resort, or a regulated entity, that has to serve end-users in the contestable market, as well as distribution connection assets and services (DCAS).

The DSOAR also sets the procedures for establishing regulated service rates for distribution utilities, pursuant to the distribution wheeling rate guidelines (DWRG). The rules will also cover non-DWRG entrants.

Interested entities have until Nov. 15 to submit to the ERC their suggested amendments to the DSOAR, as well as their comments.

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Schedule of Free Trainings and Activities

October 23 (Tuesday)
Young Entrepreneurs Society of the Philippines (YES)
Leadership and Entrepreneurship Series

10:00am–12:00nn	Mentorship and Forum by Dra. Alice T. Valerio, President ENEDA
1:00pm – 1:30pm	Opening Ceremonies by John Michael Lu, YES National President
1:30pm – 2:30pm	Financial Literacy by Mr. Randell Tiongson, RFP
2:30pm – 3:30pm	An Intro to Entrepreneurship by Mr. Carlo Calimon
3:30pm – 4:30pm	Being the Best Entrepreneur That You Can Be by Mr. Chinkee Tan
4:30pm – 5:00pm	Business Success Story: Fish Tapa by Ms. Steffi Boromeo
5:00pm – 5:30pm	Business Success Story: Student Entrepreneur
5:30pm – 6:00pm	Business Success Story: Mr. Ronald Pineda, CEO, Folded & Hung Mr. Cecilio Pedro, CEO, The Lamoiyan Group of Companies
6:00 – 6:30pm	Closing Ceremonies YES Org Promotions and Memberships

October 24 (Wednesday)
Entrepreneurs Society of the Philippines (ESP)
Finance and Technology Series

1:00pm – 2:00pm	Gaining Financial Edge Using Spreadsheet by Mr. Jerwin Dy, President, Synergy Finance
2:00pm – 3:00pm	Investing 101 by Mr. Rafly Peñanco, President, RMP Consultancy
3:00pm – 4:00pm	Business Opportunity in Computerized Accounting by Ms. Cristy Oreta, COO, ISAM
4:00pm – 5:00pm	Business Opportunity in Computerized Accounting by Mr. Victor Sollorano, VP Finance, EMethods for Business Management
5:00pm – 6:00pm	Money Making Secrets in Textile Industries by Mr. Rico Colayco, President, Nestor Distributor, Inc.
6:00pm – 7:00pm	Top 10 Online Marketing Tips You Should Know by Mr. Donald Lim, President, Yehey!
7:00pm – 9:00pm	ESP Activities

October 25 (Thursday)
Association of Marketing Educators (AME)
Sales and Marketing Series

10:30am–12:00nn	Selling in the Upscale Market: Knowing Your Target, Reaping Your Profit by Prof. Gerald Abergos, Director, AME and Professor, IAME
1:00pm–2:30pm	Color Folders in the Mind: A Branding Story by Prof. Karen V. de Asis, Chief Brand Strategist, MKS Consulting and Training
2:30pm – 4:00pm	Tourism Marketing by Prof. Carmela Ibañez, Director, AME and Director Dept. of Business and Accountancy, Asia Pacific College
4:00pm – 5:30pm	Services Marketing by Prof. Ronald Untivero, Director, AME and Professor, DLSU - Dasmariñas
5:30pm – 7:00pm	Agricultural Marketing by Prof. Minerva Maylem, Director, AME and Professor, Central Luzon State University

October 26 (Friday)
Training and Business Coaching Series

1:00pm – 2:30pm	How to Be A Successful Pinoy Business Boggier by Mr. Azrael Coladilla, Events Organizer, Toycon
2:30pm – 4:00pm	Hot Meat Products for Food Cart Business by Ms. Lourdes Rivera, Vice President Ultima Entrepinoy Forum
4:00pm – 5:00pm	10 Factors in Running A Successful Enterprise by Mr. Gavin Bunker, President INSOL Development Foundation
5:00pm – 6:00pm	Shaping Up Your Business Marketing Strategy by Mylene Abiva-Sazon, President & CEO, Felta Multi-Media, Inc.
6:00pm – 7:00pm	Ways of a Successful Entrepreneur by Ricky De Vera, International Trainer, Pinpoint Marketing Consultancy
7:00pm – 9:00pm	Center for Pop Music Festival

October 27 (Saturday)
Training and Business Coaching Series

10:00am–12:00nn	Business Opportunities
1:00pm – 2:00pm	Profitable Meat Products for Home Business by Ms. Lourdes Rivera, Vice President Ultima Entrepinoy Forum
2:00pm – 3:00pm	Business Presentation Miekelko Manufacturing Corp by Ms. Emma Rose Q. Quimbo, VP - Admin
3:00pm – 4:00pm	Basic Cash Flow Management by Mr. Gavin Bunker, President, INSOL Development Foundation
4:00pm – 5:30pm	Citifinancial Group Business Opportunity Presentation
5:30pm – 7:00pm	10 Pitfalls To Be Avoided By A Starting Entrepreneur by Mr. Ricky de Vera, International Trainer Pinpoint Consultancy

October 28 (Sunday)
SME Business Opportunities and Growth Series

11:00am–12:00nn	Developing a Push and Pull Marketing Strategy for Your Business by Mr. Mark So, CEO, Businessmaker Academy
1:00pm – 2:00pm	Introduction to Mutual Fund Investing by Mr. Gerald Baldivia, Executive Director-Marketing
2:00pm – 3:00pm	Audio Visual Presentation by Wagemark Corporation
3:00pm – 4:00pm	How to Make a Profit in the Internet Boom by Mr. Jonas Delos Reyes, E-Commerce Manager, Yehey!
4:00pm – 6:00pm	ASENSO PINOY FORUM
6:00pm – 7:00pm	Marketing Your Products and Services and Winning Against the Industry Goliaths by Mr. Mark So, CEO, Businessmaker Academy
7:00pm – 9:00pm	Center for Pop Music Festival

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Ready Atlas

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

AFTER HAVING BEEN CLOSED FOR THE past 12 years or so, the 50-year-old Atlas Consolidated Mining and Development Corp. may well be on its way to a rebirth.

All bets already point to the company as the first to start production, among the many prospective mining companies in this country seeing resurgence of the industry.

I can safely say that the $200-million Atlas rehabilitation is in full swing, having gone up to the mountains last week to take a look at its mine site in Cebu.

Again, Atlas is undergoing rehabilitation—a physical refurbishing of its milling plants and mines.

It already has existing mining facilities such as the mill and foundry shop, plus of course infrastructure like roads and seaport, not to mention an existing airstrip.

In comparison, most other mining concerns here (and I'd rather not mention names) are starting from scratch.

They will need anywhere from $1 to $2 billion, easily, just to start operations.

To greet you at the Atlas property in Toledo (Cebu) are brand-new heavy equipment—those gigantic backhoes and payloaders each worth millions of pesos, kept busy all day digging and moving earth.

Also, all over the compound are newly delivered construction materials, such as steel posts, galvanized iron sheets and railroad planks.

But to me, the surest sign of the seriousness of the Atlas rehabilitation is the presence of an affable American mining expert named Gary Leighton.

The man has been in the mining business for some time, having worked on several similar rehabilitation projects in South America.

Tell you what, Gary already took up full-time residence at the Atlas mine site. Together with his family, at that!

* * *

ATLAS used to be the world's third biggest copper producer until poor metal prices and heavy debt weighed down its operations, forcing it to close down the Toledo mines in 1995 after the site was devastated by a typhoon.

Meantime, Alakor became the biggest stockholder of Atlas.

For the sake of action stars in the Senate, Alakor is the holding company of the family of Alfredo Ramos, who owns the National Bookstore chain, plus a lot of other big things such as malls and condos.

And so, 12 years later, as metal prices went on to record highs, Atlas got a $100-million loan from Deutsche Bank, plus a commitment of $33 million in fresh equity from a Singapore-based fund called Crescent Asian Special Opportunities Portfolio, or Casop.

According to highly reliable sources (and I will not name them even if certain senators force me to), the company is looking at a number of ways to raise the remaining $70 million needed for the rehabilitation.

They are an IPO of Carmen Mining (a subsidiary of Atlas that owns the Toledo mines), advances from the foreign buyers of the copper concentrate, and additional equity from both Atlas and Casop.

Actually, Atlas already has enough money for production to get started. It will nevertheless need some $70 million more to complete the rehab.

Included in the rehab are some costly projects to protect the environment, such as water treatment facilities.

There, you see, not all mining companies are evil!

* * *

ANYWAY, once the Toledo mines reopen, they are expected to generate revenue of up to $3 billion in the next 12 years, providing about 3,000 jobs to residents around and near the mine site.

Last Friday, as late as 4 o'clock in the afternoon, there was a long line of job applicants at the mine's administration office.

Most of the applicants, I soon found out, are second-generation Atlas families. Their fathers used to work for Atlas when the mines were shut down 12 years ago.

For instance, Rodrigo Cal, Atlas resident manager, who is also a geologist, was an Atlas scholar, having qualified for the competitive exams that the company used to give to children of employees.

The young man who drove me around the mine site is also the son of an Atlas company driver.

The point is, Atlas seems to enjoy the support of the community.

At one time, on a visit to the mine site, officers of Casop were greeted with a streamer saying, "God bless the investors."

The parish priest prays for the reopening of Atlas every day during Holy Mass.

The Atlas community had seen better times, when the mines were operating, and possibly the worst of times, when they were closed down.

Outside the Atlas compound, where a short (less than a kilometer long) strip of commercial establishments stood, I counted four—again FOUR—pawnshops. This, as we all know, is a business that thrives during bad times in the community.

Hopefully, things may look up a bit with the reopening of Atlas.

* * *

TALKING of the environment, I received a media release from Rotary International District 3830 (southern part of the metropolis, mainly) about its tree-planting project.

What else is new? I mean, as a measure to help protect the environment, civic groups have been planting a tree or two here and there, while illegal logging syndicates have been cutting down trees by the thousands in our forests just the same.

Still, the Rotary project may grab your interest because of the sheer number of trees that its members intend to plant—more than 3,000 trees.

What's more, the Rotarians will do the planting of those trees in 15 different locations and all at the same time—starting at 7 a.m. on Oct. 28.

Some of the sites are the Libingan ng mga Bayani, Bahile Housing Project (Puerto Princesa, Palawan), San Antonio Valley X and XI (Parañaque), BF Homes Health Center (Parañaque), RC Parañaque Community Center (BF Homes), Rotary Friendship Park (Las Piñas), stretch of Sucat Avenue (Parañaque), Pamantasang Lungsod ng Muntinlupa, Tuhian Elementary School (Quezon province), Barangay Don Bosco (Parañaque), Pilar Village (Las Piñas) and Signal Village High School (Taguig).

Gov't will honor commitment to Bangko Sentral, says Teves

P40-B capital contribution to be paid over 3 to 5 years

By Michelle V. Remo

THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT HAS COMmitted to pay its unremitted capital contribution to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas worth P40 billion, but on a staggered basis to avoid disrupting its fiscal program.

Finance Secretary Margarito Teves told reporters the government could not remit the P40 billion in one tranche as it was still in the process of balancing its budget, which was targeted to be realized next year.

"We have to make sure that we fund our expenditure requirements first. Because we are still trying to balance our budget, we can pay the BSP over a three to five-year period," Teves said.

The finance chief said the government could start paying the BSP by 2009.

He said the government would not run away from its obligation to the BSP, but the goal of balancing the budget was the top priority.

The government, he said, could also consider paying the BSP with treasury bonds, which the latter could sell in the market.

The BSP had asked for the government's additional capital contribution of P40 billion due to its reported financial woes.

Under the charter that created the BSP to replace the old and heavily indebted Central Bank, the national government has committed to contribute P50 billion in capital. The government, however, has so far contributed only P10 billion.

According to data from the DOF, the BSP posted a budget deficit of P32 billion in the first half of the year, a reversal of the surpluses realized in the past several years.

The deficit was blamed partly on the BSP's intervention in the money market to prevent the sharp appreciation of the peso.

Exporters have been seeking the government's help in tempering the peso rise which, they said, have resulted in substantial losses for the export industry.

This prompted the BSP to intervene in the market by buying or selling dollars to help prevent sharp and sudden appreciation or depreciation of the local currency.

The peso's appreciation makes Philippine-made products more expensive compared to those of their competitors.

The peso has been in the 44-to-a-dollar level, stronger than the 48 to 50 against the US dollar assumed in the drafting of the national government's budget for the year.

The strengthening of the peso is attributed to the strong dollar inflows from foreign investors and the overseas Filipino workers.

Efforts to curb growth in domestic liquidity, which was feared to result in the breaching of inflation targets if left unresolved, was also blamed for the BSP deficit in the first half.

In May, monetary authorities allowed trust departments of banks to directly place deposits in the BSP and encouraged state-owned firms to increase their deposits with the central bank by offering interest rates that are higher than yields on government securities. The moves have led to higher expenses for the BSP.

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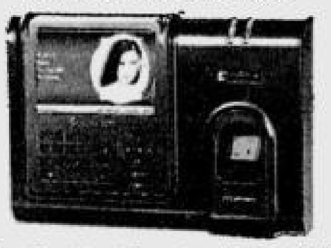
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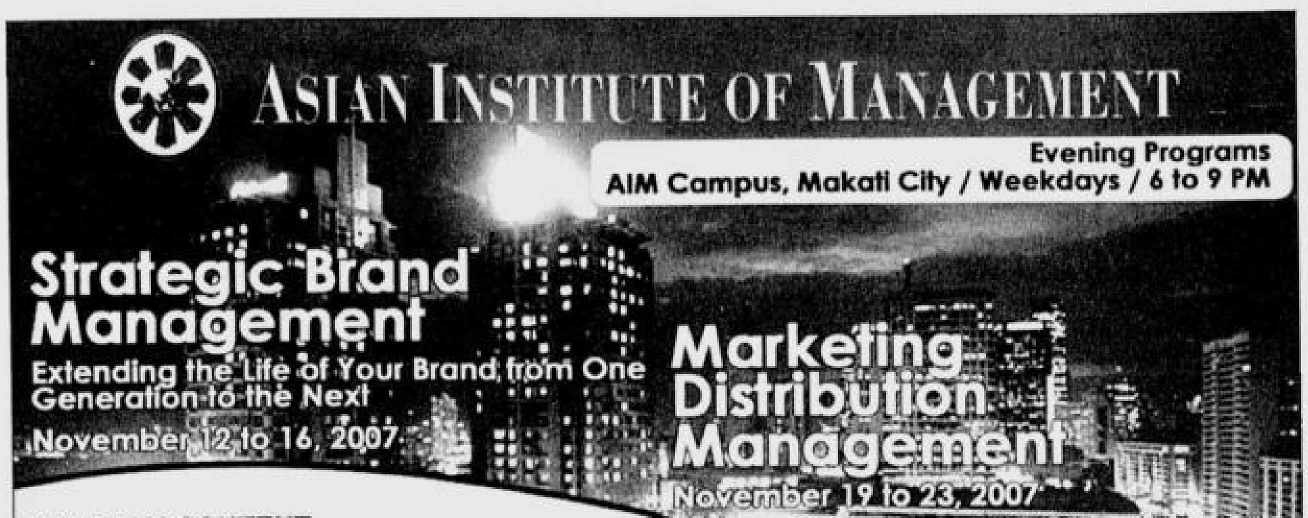
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Dr. Karen V. de Asis is the Program Director of the Strategic Brand Management course. She has over twenty years of experience in Marketing that includes Strategic Marketing Planning, Business Development, Sales and Channel management, Advertising, New Product Development, Brand Management, Marketing Public Relations, and Direct Marketing. She received the Agora Award for Excellence in Marketing Education in 2003. Dr. de Asis holds a MBA degree from Ateneo and a doctorate degree in Education major in Leadership and Management, with High Distinction, from the De La Salle University.

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Prof. Noel Cortez is the Director of the Marketing Distribution Management Program. He has a wide range of work experience in distribution, sales operation, marketing, business strategy, brand management, and product development from various leading companies in the Philippines in the field of manufacturing, IT, pharmaceutical, and telecom industries. Prof. Cortez holds a Master's degree in Business Management from AIM in 1994 and was part of the exchange MBA program with Columbia Business School in New York City, USA. He has completed his Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering from UP.

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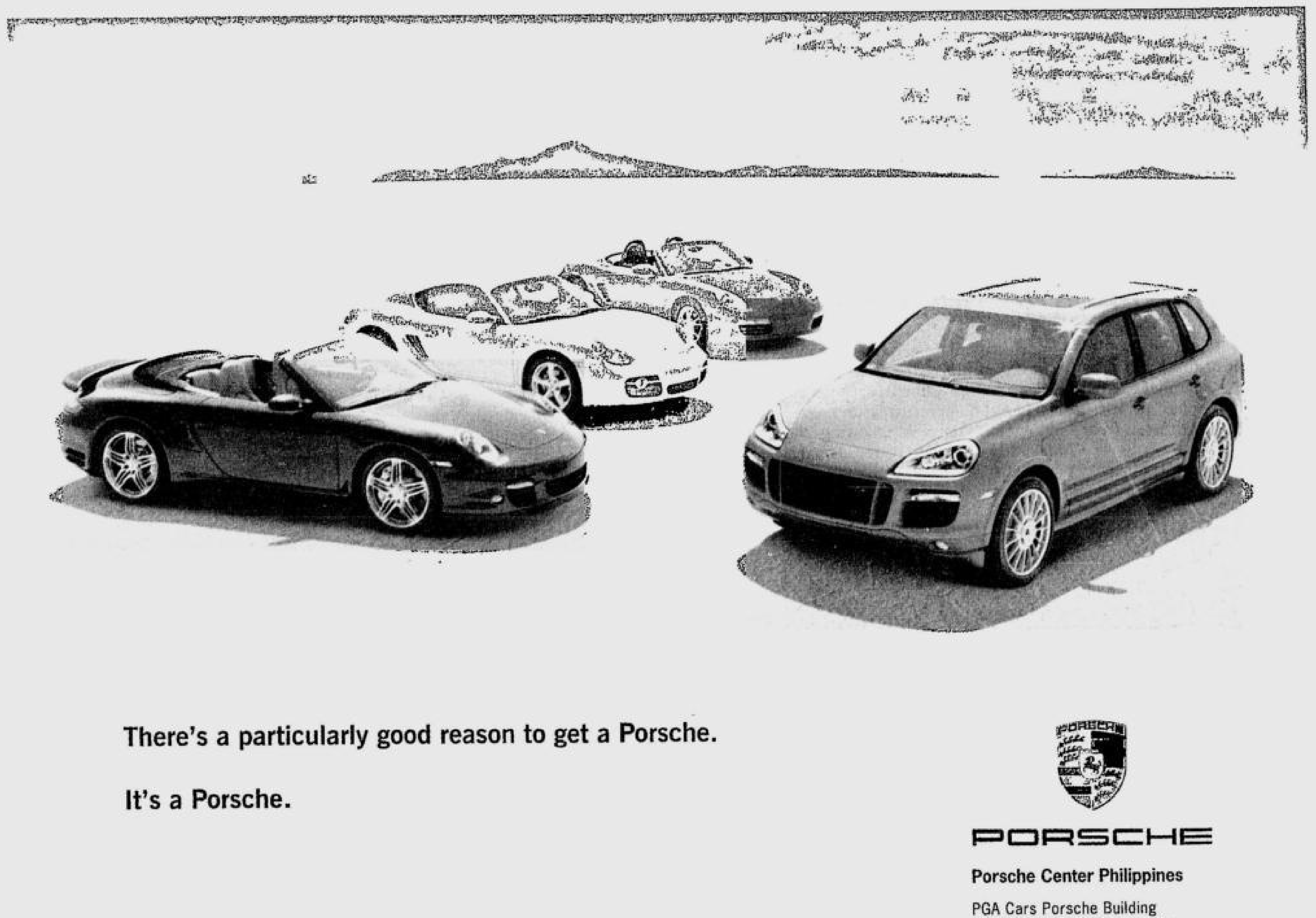
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Lopez group plans IPO for SkyCable, ABS-CBN Global

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

THE LOPEZ GROUP IS TAKING public its cable and international subsidiary starting next year, encouraged by more robust financial forecasts this year.

ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. chair Eugenio Lopez III said in a recent briefing that cable television operator Central CaTV Inc. (SkyCable) of the Lopez group has plans to possibly raise more than P3 billion from an initial public offer at the local stock exchange next year.

He said that international subsidiary ABS-CBN Global may go public by 2009 as it considers a possible listing on the Singapore Stock Exchange.

"We might carry it (ABS-CBN Global) here as well. But we might get a much better valuation in Singapore versus the local market," Lopez said.

SkyCable chief operating officer Carlo Katigbak said in a recent presentation that SkyCable was expected to return to the black in 2007 with P104.9 million in net profit, reversing the P50.5 million in net loss it reported in the previous year.

Revenues are also expected to grow to P3.6 billion in 2007 from P3.2 billion last year.

Katigbak said revenue growth was driven by rate increases and the crackdown on illegal subscribers with the help of the local government.

In 2005, SkyCable asked mayors and the local police to criminalize cable theft through local ordinances. Between 2005 and 2007, SkyCable was able to disconnect roughly 150,000 illegal subscribers.

SkyCable also plans to expand its services by offering prepaid cable services in more affordable denominations and voice-on-demand through its cable broadband Internet brand ZPDee.

Katigbak estimated that SkyCable would need P1 billion to expand its market.

SkyCable, the operator of cable television channels in Metro Manila, owns 55 percent of Pilipino Cable Corp., which operates cable channels outside of Manila.

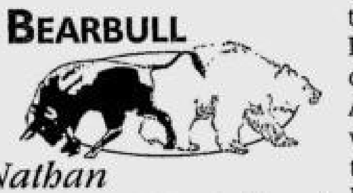
SkyCable is owned 66.5 percent by a Lopez-controlled holding firm, SkyVision Corp., and 33.5 percent by the group of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT).

In turn, ABS-CBN owns 10.2 percent of Sky Vision Corp.

ABS-CBN Global on the other hand, which offers ABS-CBN programs to the international market, has seen its subscribers grow to roughly 1.6 million this year from 1 million in 2004.

Wall Street takes a dive

MR. BEARBULL



Ron Nathan

AS EVERYONE KNOWS, THE CURRENT Pope is German and before he entered the priesthood, he used to drive fast cars. Nowadays, of course, he has to sit at the back of the bulletproof POPEMOBILE. However, he never lost his love of driving and on a long journey to a distant town, he asked the chauffeur if they could change places.

"I'm sorry, your Holiness, but I cannot allow any harm to befall you and if anyone found out, I would lose my job." "I understand," said the Pope but he persisted nevertheless. Eventually they reached a rarely used road where the speed limit was 120 kph. Reluctantly, and with grave misgivings, he switched places and clothes.

As soon as the Pope had the wheel, he put his foot down and soon the car was hurtling forward at 180 kph, where it was picked up by a radar trap. "I got one, Captain," said the officer, "He's doing 180!"

"Bring him in. I don't care who it is."

The captain made the arrest but told the Captain, "He's very important."

"I don't care if it's the mayor."

"No sir," he's bigger than that.

"I don't care if it's the senator."

"Sir, he's bigger than that."

"Look, I don't care if it's the President."

"Sir, he's more important than the President."

"Well, who on earth can it be?"

"Sir, I think its God. He's being chauffeured by the Pope."

* * *

The crash on Wall Street, the third this year, was partly due to fears about the credit and housing sector, record oil prices of $90 a barrel and a continued slide in the dollar, now at par with Zimbabwe. However, there were other reasons, not obvious to Filipinos. First of all, there were disappointing results from Caterpillar, Bank of America, Honeywell and Watchoverya (Wachovia), which became the latest financial service company to reveal how the credit and mortgage crisis had hit its profits. 3M and McDonald's were also below estimates and it was left to GOOGLE, up 57 percent, to provide some good news.

Jobless claims last week also rose by a substantial number, suggesting that the creation of new jobs will start slowing down soon.

First of all, it was exactly 20 years to the day that the DOW plunged 23 percent in a single day. This specter haunted the older traders and was worsened by the arrival of a SEC inspector who rang the bell 20 years earlier. This in itself was sufficient to cause a panic but it was also the day when options expire, the penultimate Friday of each month. So if option traders who bought puts a month ago, when the market was higher, started exercising them, the option traders had no other course of action but to sell the underlying securities. When this occurs near Halloween, it is called "triple witching."

The combination of all these factors plus trouble in Turkey, 140 people killed in Pakistan, union problems at Chrysler and a large Bank of America Fund, Cheyenne, defaulting on its $600-million assets were other contributory factors. But the final straw was DUMBLEDORE being declared gay by the author of Harry Potter. The market can only take so much before it crumbles.

After just one week of earnings, growth year-on-year is minus 0.1 percent but this included a number of financials and next week should be a better indicator. But even if the growth picks up over the next two weeks, it looks as if double-digit growth will not occur for the first time in 20 quarters and that a slowdown in GDP to 2 percent or less is on the cards. So it is hard to imagine 2008 being a good year and if America stagnates, the rest of the world, particularly Asia, will suffer to some extent.

The only consolation is that we are slowly decoupling from the US. If you look at our exports, you will see that what we lost to the US was largely taken up by China and Hong Kong. A European bloc already exists and in due course, over a period of years, an Asian bloc and a North America bloc will emerge. This does not mean that they will use a single currency. In fact, I am strongly opposed to the idea. Can you imagine the yen or the yuan pegged to the peso?

The peso surged to a 7-year high of 44.05 but is this really good news? Admittedly, it helps keep down inflation, not a problem anyway, but it is destroying exports, call centers and the value of remittances. I think the central bank should put a cap on it before it goes to 30, as predicted by BNP PARIBAS. All Asian currencies are running into trouble with their strong currencies and China is getting into a difficult situation. Growth is too high at 11.8 percent, the money supply is growing by 18 percent, the trade surplus is positively embarrassing and inflation is far too high at 6.5 percent. Even though it has raised interest rates 5 times and increased bank deposits, this is not enough.

In Asia, MITSUBISHI FINANCIAL GROUP, NATIONAL AUSTRALIA BANK and NOMURA have all renewed concern about the US housing slump, whose ripple effects have spread across the globe. The number of bidders for PNOC-EDC has fallen from 24 to 14 but these include major companies, both here and abroad. The budget deficit for the first 9 months was P40 billion, of which P14.8 billion was for September. The trade figures for last month turned negative for the first time this year and exports were disappointing.

Following the huge fall last Friday night, the PSEi opened 192 points lower. It rallied to minus 130 but deteriorated to minus 152 points. At the time of writing, the futures for Wall Street tonight are down 120 points so another weak opening is assured.

President Arroyo has ordered the arrest of all officials engaged in bribery. The US has offered to donate to the Philippines the famous prison at ALCATRAZ.

Stocks plunge 4%; peso rallies to 44.115:$1

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blast added to pressures brought by weak stock market sentiment across the region, rising global oil prices and renewed aversion to assets from emerging markets.

"The market is very risk-averse due to the bombing and what happened to Wall Street on Friday," said Roland Avante, Chinatrust Commercial Bank Philippines treasurer.

Investor concerns following the Makati blast also triggered demand for higher yields at yesterday's treasury bills auction, forcing the Bureau of the Treasury to reject all tenders. *(See related story on this page.)*

However, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Officer in Charge Nestor Espenilla Jr. said it was "business as usual" at the central monetary institution.

Gov't rejects ...

From page B1

ing that the market is concerned about. So maybe we should rest for awhile until the market settles down," Mendiola said in a briefing after the failed auctions.

The Treasury official said they have canceled the auction for four-year treasury bonds originally scheduled for Tuesday next week. The government had intended to raise P7 billion from the auction prior to the cancellation.

Mendiola said the lack of interest to invest in low-risk government securities could partly be blamed on the current peace-and-order situation, which was highlighted by an explosion last Friday at the Glorietta 2 mall that killed 11 people.

Besides market volatility, the holidays next week made it unwise for the government to issue bonds. Mendiola said that if the auction would push through on Tuesday, the Treasury would only have until Wednesday to complete settlement of the bond sale (Nov. 1 and 2 were declared non-working holidays).

CURRENCIES

October 22, 2007 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.699399	1.000000	44.1920
Japan	Yen	0.006106	0.008730	0.3858
United Kingdom	Pound	1.434606	2.051200	90.6466
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.090241	0.129026	5.7019
Switzerland	Franc	0.599467	0.857118	37.8778
Canada	Dollar	0.723940	1.035090	45.7427
Singapore	Dollar	0.478417	0.684041	30.2291
Australia	Dollar	0.623795	0.891902	39.4149
Bahrain	Dinar*	1.856646	2.654632	117.3135
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.187055	0.267451	11.8192
Brunei	Dollar	0.476787	0.681710	30.1261
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000077	0.000110	0.0049
Thailand	Baht	0.022200	0.031741	1.4027
UAE	Dirham	0.190520	0.272405	12.0381
EU	Euro	1.000000	1.429800	63.1857
Korea	Won	0.000764	0.001092	0.0483
China	Yuan**	0.093154	0.133191	5.8860
Denmark	Kroner	0.134169	0.191835	8.4776
India	Rupee	0.017702	0.025310	1.1185
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.208403	0.297974	13.1681
New Zealand	Dollar	0.525311	0.751089	33.1921
Sweden	Kroner	0.109036	0.155899	6.8895
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.021467	0.030694	1.3564

Source: Reuters' forex closing prices as of NY time—Oct. 19, 2007

* Various banks in Bahrain as quoted in Reuters' Screen ** Asian time closing rate as of Oct 19, 2007

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of October 22, 2007)

52-WKS HIGH	52-WKS LOW	STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
		BANKS					
17.5	6.4	Asiatrust Development Bank Inc.	8.9	8.9	8.9	8.9	14,000
73	41	Banco de Oro-EPCI Inc.	63	63	60.5	62	2,146,700
73.5	53	Bank of the Philippine Islands	67	67	64.5	64.5	2,063,300
748	528	China Banking Corp.	700	705	700	700	21,610
23.5	18.5	Citystate Savings Bank	23.25	23.25	23.25	23.25	300
0.63	0.36	Export and Industry Bank Inc.	0.44	0.44	0.44	0.44	1,200,000
75.5	44	Metropolitan Bank and Trust Company	59.5	62.5	57	60	6,295,100
65.5	34	Philippine National Bank	49	49	47	48	473,000
39.57	15.65	Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.	27	27.5	26	27	3,730,500
90	54.5	Security Bank Corp.	76	76.5	75	76	242,000
66	44.51	Union Bank of the Philippines	51	51	50	50	69,800
		OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
2.22	0.6	Bankard Inc.	1.9	2	1.9	2	4,599,000
16.25	4.35	CitisecOnline.com Inc.	12.25	12.5	11.75	12.25	1,716,400
8.8	4.6	Filipino Fund Inc.	8	8	8	8	4,000
1.6	0.5	First Abacus Financial Holdings Corp.	1	1	0.97	0.97	340,000
5.9	4.9	I-Remit Inc.	5.1	5.5	4.9	5.5	17,305,000
5	2.95	National Reinsurance Corp. of the Phils.	3.5	3.5	3.2	3.4	1,576,000
1,130.00	240	The Philippine Stock Exchange Inc.	975	1,000.00	975	985	33,630
2,355.00	1,945.00	Sun Life Financial Inc	2,300.00	2,300.00	2,295.00	2,295.00	430
1.94	1.3	iVantage Corp	1.58	1.58	1.5	1.52	330,000
		ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
6.2	3.8	Aboitiz Power Corp.	5.4	5.4	5.2	5.3	6,252,000
70.5	49	First Gen Corp.	62	63	62	63	765,400
92	51	First Phil. Holdings Corp.	84	86	84	85	322,500
17.5	8.8	Manila Water Company Inc.	16.25	16.5	16.25	16.5	5,384,600
105.45	23.18	Manila Electric Company	77	77.5	76	77	3,240,600
7.8	4.1	PNOC Energy Development Corp.	7	7.1	6.9	7.1	42,815,000
6.8	3.9	Petron Corp.	6.3	6.4	6.2	6.2	6,213,000
14.75	6.6	Phoenix Petroleum Philippines Inc.	8	8	7.6	7.6	450,000
2.5	1.7	Salcon Power Corp.	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	40,000
1.9	0.99	Trans-Asia Oil and Energy Dev't Corp.	1.38	1.46	1.36	1.38	3,943,000
		FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
6.3	3.2	Alaska Milk Corp.	5	5.1	4.9	5	467,000
2.95	1.66	Alliance Tuna International Inc.	1.84	1.84	1.72	1.78	1,672,000
61	39	Jollibee Foods Corp.	52	52.5	51	52	309,000
9.1	5.3	Pancake House Inc.	9	9	9	9	24,000
0.98	0.5	RFM Corp.	0.78	0.78	0.76	0.76	800,000
3.8	2.06	Roxas Holdings	2.7	2.7	2.6	2.7	890,000
80	58.5	San Miguel Corp. A	59	59.5	58.5	58.5	80,700
88	59.5	San Miguel Corp. B	60	60.5	59.5	60	335,900
0.66	0.31	Swift Foods Inc.	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	110,000
6.5	2	Tanduay Holdings Inc.	5.4	5.9	5.4	5.9	15,000
22	14.5	Universal Robina Corp	15	15	14.5	14.75	6,284,500
		CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
6.1	2.64	EEI Corp.	5.3	5.3	5	5	862,000
21.5	6	Federal Res. Investment Group Inc.	12	12	12	12	3,000
9.2	4.95	Holcim Philippines Inc.	8.2	8.2	8	8	2,084,000
7	2.1	Republic Cement Corp.	4.3	4.5	4.3	4.5	112,000
2	0.43	Southeast Asia Cement Holdings Inc	1.06	1.12	1.02	1.1	17,958,000
		CHEMICALS					
6.3	3.75	Chemrez Technologies Inc.	4.15	4.45	4.15	4.4	[illegible]
		DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
0.75	0.12	[illegible] Resources, Inc.	0.29	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
		HOLDING FIRMS					
3.9	2.48	A. Soriano Corp.	3.2	3.2	3.1	3.2	242,000
0.17	0.032	AJO.net Holdings Inc.	0.105	0.115	0.105	0.105	67,600,000
1.28	0.235	APC Group Inc.	0.73	0.75	0.7	0.71	16,680,000
3.65	1.5	ATN Holdings Inc. A	2.8	2.85	2.75	2.8	1,452,000
3.7	1.5	ATN Holdings Inc. B	1.96	1.96	1.96	1.96	100,000
0.018	0.0075	Abacus Cons. Res. and Hold'gs Inc. A	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	59,800,000
0.019	0.0075	Abacus Cons. Res. and Hold'gs Inc. B	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	20,000,000
9.7	5.6	Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc.	7	7.1	6.9	7	2,486,000
0.021	0.0075	Alcorn Gold Resources Corp.	0.016	0.016	0.015	0.016	335,400,000
7.3	3.5	Alliance Global Group Inc.	5.5	5.7	5.4	5.6	5,812,000
1.38	0.54	Alsons Cons. Resources Inc	0.7	0.75	0.7	0.75	590,000
2.9	0.89	Anglo-Philippine Holdings Corp.	2.18	2.24	2.1	2.16	5,299,000
615	397.92	Ayala Corp.	550	560	540	550	424,320
15.25	7.3	Bacnotan Cons. Industries Inc.	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	2,400
5.8	1.38	Benpres Holdings Corp.	4.3	4.35	4.2	4.25	15,699,000
10.25	4.6	DMCI Holdings Inc.	9.3	9.3	9.2	9.3	1,518,000
6.9	1.08	Eton Properties Philippines Inc.	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	55,000
2.5	0.7	F and J Prince Holdings Corp. A	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	29,000
1.84	1	F and J Prince Holdings Corp. B	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1,000
8	2.55	Filinvest Development Corp.	6.6	7	6.6	7	348,000
3.55	1.54	House of Investments Inc	2.06	2.06	2.06	2.06	74,000
14.5	7.8	JG Summit Holdings Inc.	10.75	11	10.5	11	473,600
5.9	0.61	Jolliville Holdings Corp.	1.8	1.8	1.74	1.74	422,000
2.6	1.2	Keppel Philippines Holdings Inc. A	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	30,000
2.65	1.42	Keppel Philippines Holdings Inc. B	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	30,000
11.5	1.48	Minerales Industrias Corp.	7	7.3	6.6	6.7	13,439,000
8.5	2.9	PAL Holdings Inc	7	7.7	6.5	7	2,484,000
0.28	0.011	Pacifica Inc. A	0.185	0.205	0.17	0.195	380,880,000
0.75	0.185	Prime Orion Philippines Inc.	0.46	0.46	0.44	0.44	2,540,000
2.1	1.2	Republic Glass Holdings Corp.	1.64	1.64	1.64	1.64	12,000
452.5	258.94	SM Investments Corp.	390	390	375	380	269,400
0.73	0.13	Sinophil Corp.	0.39	0.41	0.36	0.4	13,090,000
1.06	0.61	Solid Group Inc.	0.76	0.76	0.76	0.76	20,000
1.6	0.9	South China Resources Inc.	1.44	1.44	1.42	1.42	100,000
23	1	TKC Steel Corp.	18	18.25	18	18.25	8,000
0.75	0.1	Wellex Industries Inc	0.35	0.35	0.32	0.34	18,900,000
		PROPERTY					
2.34	1	A Brown Company Inc.	1.34	1.34	1.24	1.28	422,000
8.9	5	Anchor Land Holdings Inc.	7	7.7	7	7.6	48,000
19.25	11.67	Ayala Land Inc.	15.75	16.5	15.5	16.25	15,583,900
1.88	1	Belle Corp.	1.3	1.32	1.26	1.28	4,307,000
4.7	2.9	Cebu Holdings Inc.	3.8	4.3	3.8	4.05	182,000
2.04	1.56	Cebu Property Venture & Dev't Corp.A	1.94	1.94	1.94	1.94	3,000
2.1	1.7	Cebu Property Venture & Dev't Corp.B	1.94	1.94	1.94	1.94	3,000
2.7	1.18	Cityland Development Corp	1.8	1.9	1.8	1.9	1,020,000
0.86	0.39	Crown Equities Inc.	0.62	0.62	0.58	0.59	600,000
0.83	0.24	Cyber Bay Corp.	0.45	0.45	0.43	0.43	910,000
0.99	0.52	Empire East Land Holdings Inc.	0.77	0.77	0.74	0.76	27,090,000
0.47	0.055	Ever Gotesco Res. and Hold'gs Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.24	0.26	15,910,000
1.48	0.61	Fil-Estate Land Inc.	1.04	1.1	1.04	1.08	17,241,000
2.44	1.26	Filinvest Land Inc.	1.74	1.8	1.7	1.76	64,943,000
0.49	0.11	Gotesco Land Inc. A	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	1,150,000
0.5	0.12	Gotesco Land Inc. B	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	100,000
1.12	0.31	MRC Allied Industries Inc.	0.62	0.62	0.58	0.59	2,400,000
4.6	1.85	Megaworld Corp.	4.15	4.3	4.15	4.2	67,249,000
6.4	1.5	Metro Pacific Investments Corp.	4.7	4.85	4.7	4.75	432,000
0.87	0.32	Phil. Realty and Holdings Corp.	0.5	0.54	0.48	0.49	4,780,000
23	14	Robinson Land Corp.	19.75	20.5	19.5	19.75	10,106,200
5.9	1.52	SM Development Corp.	4.1	4.1	4	4.05	1,356,000
13.5	6.88	SM Prime Holdings Inc.	11.25	11.75	11	11.25	8,359,000
3.25	1.22	Shang Properties Inc.	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	31,000
1.34	0.46	Suntrust Home Developers Inc.	0.65	0.65	0.6	0.6	1,980,000
0.49	0.09	Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.26	0.26	6,640,000
7.5	3.65	Vista Land and Lifescapes Inc.	5.5	5.9	5.4	5.9	1,147,000
		MEDIA					
38.5	18.75	ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp	32	32.5	31	31.5	251,100
11.75	8	GMA Network Inc	8.4	[illegible]	[illegible]	8.1	[illegible]
		TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
2.12	1.1	Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	1.38	1.42	1.36	1.4	4,291,000
1,740.00	1,085.00	Globe Telecom Inc.	1,720.00	1,720.00	1,650.00	1,685.00	52,450
3,285.00	2,250.00	Phil. Long Distance Telephone Co.	2,970.00	3,020.00	2,970.00	3,015.00	191,710
8.1	4.7	Pilipino Telephone Corp.	7	7.4	7	7.3	7,831,000
		INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
0.39	0.17	Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.195	0.2	9,310,000
12	2	Diversified Financial Network Inc.	8.8	9	8.8	9	178,000
11.5	2	IPVG Corp.	8.9	8.9	8.4	8.7	2,628,000
0.065	0.027	ISM Communications Corp.	0.041	0.041	0.037	0.039	130,700,000
2.9	1.48	Ionics Inc.	1.62	1.64	1.62	1.64	167,000
0.32	0.044	Island Info and Technology Inc.	0.185	0.195	0.18	0.18	29,230,000
2.08	1.1	Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.36	1.36	1.32	1.32	240,000
0.0725	0.03	PhilWeb Com Inc	0.0525	0.0525	0.05	0.0525	145,300,000
5.8	1.34	Transpacific Broadband Grp Int'l. Inc.	2.85	2.9	2.75	2.85	3,747,000
		TRANPORTATION SERVICES					
2.14	1.14	Aboitiz Transport System Corp.	1.5	1.54	1.48	1.54	120,000
6.8	3.6	Asian Terminals Inc.	4.15	4.15	4.1	4.1	86,000
42.5	18.5	Int'l Container Terminal Services Inc.	37	39.5	37	39.5	280,400
2.16	0.93	Keppel Philippines Marine Inc.	2	2	2	2	423,000
2.04	1.04	Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.26	1.26	1.26	1.26	2,000
		HOTEL & LEISURE					
4.25	1.8	Leisure and Resorts World Corp.	3.1	3.1	3	3	146,000
0.98	0.32	Premiere Entertainment Productions Inc.	0.6	0.61	0.6	0.6	6,120,000
1.2	0.5	Waterfront Philippines Inc.	0.76	0.8	0.76	0.79	3,120,000
		EDUCATION					
9.8	7.2	Centro Escolar University	7.8	8	7.8	8	5,000
3.7	2.6	iPeople Inc.	2.9	3.05	2.9	3.05	189,000
		DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
6	1.96	Macroasia Corp.	5	5.1	4.9	4.95	1,614,000
17.25	9.8	Pacific Online Systems Corp.	12	12.5	12	12.25	91,700
30	10.5	Paxys Inc.	12.5	12.5	11	11.75	493,900
		MINING					
0.017	0.0085	Abra Mining and Industrial Corp.	0.011	0.012	0.011	0.012	157,700,000
7.6	3.6	Apex Mining Company Inc. A	5.5	5.5	5.3	5.3	129,000
7.7	3.85	Apex Mining Company Inc. B	5.4	5.5	5.4	5.4	129,000
21.25	7.8	Atlas Cons. Mining and Dev't Corp.	14.5	14.75	14	14.25	3,340,100
14.25	8.9	Benguet Corp. A	12	12.25	12	12.25	5,000
10.5	1.8	Dizon Copper Silver Mines Inc.	7.3	7.6	7	7.1	645,000
3.1	0.57	GEOGRACE Resources Phil. Inc.	2.38	2.44	2.3	2.34	172,401,000
0.39	0.18	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. A	0.34	0.34	0.32	0.33	29,080,000
0.42	0.22	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. B	0.37	0.38	0.36	0.36	21,330,000
0.038	0.017	Manila Mining Corp. A	0.027	0.027	0.024	0.025	183,700,000
0.041	0.02	Manila Mining Corp. B	0.03	0.03	0.028	0.028	157,000,000
30	1.98	NiHAO Minerals Res. Int'l Inc.	22.5	24	21.5	23	10,413,400
0.021	0.0079	Omico Corp.	0.013	0.014	0.012	0.013	1,814,700,000
9.7	3.5	Philex Mining Corp.	9	9.2	8.8	9.1	21,262,000
43.5	14.75	Semirara Mining Corp.	39	39	38.5	39	265,300
1.36	0.47	United Paragon Mining Corp.	0.96	0.96	0.95	0.95	930,000
1.8	0.65	Vulcan Industrial and Mining Corp.	1.24	1.24	1.2	1.2	2,025,000
		OIL					
0.58	0.25	Basic Energy Corp.	0.32	0.34	0.31	0.33	4,730,000
0.029	0.0095	Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. A	0.024	0.024	0.023	0.023	519,500,000
0.03	0.01	Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. B	0.025	0.025	0.024	0.024	109,100,000
11.75	9	Petroenergy Resources Corp.	10	10.25	9.9	10	200,100
0.032	0.0089	The Philodrill Corp.	0.027	0.027	0.025	0.027	549,200,000

AVERAGES				VOLUME	VALUE
Financial	924.94	DOWN	41.87	42,160,770	968,071,710.00
Industrial	4,575.16	DOWN	171.83	125,680,200	992,286,655.00
Holding Firms	2,052.01	DOWN	91.04	966,361,720	715,749,745.00
Property	1,674.20	DOWN	99.81	253,993,100	1,018,334,385.00
Service	1,824.23	DOWN	55.59	348,036,260	835,931,650.00
Mining & Oil	7,657.85	DOWN	545.61	3,757,784,900	991,596,790.00
All Shares Index	2,292.80	DOWN	95.38		
PSEI	3,667.87	DOWN	151.88		
		GRAND TOTALS		5,494,016,950	5,521,970,935.00

COMPILED BY SCHATZI QUODALA, INQUIRER RESEARCH

SOURCE: TECHNISTOCK, PSI

Napocor urged to disclose total debts

By Abigail L. Ho

THE FREEDOM FROM DEBT Coalition is seeking a full disclosure of the debts of National Power Corp. before Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. goes ahead with the prepayment of $1.3 billion of these loans in the next six months.

FDC secretary general Milo Tanchuling said the public had the right to know whether these debts were all aboveboard or if some of these were "anomalous, fraudulent, unnecessary, (or) onerous."

The debt audit, he said, should have come as early as 2004, when the national government absorbed P200 billion of the state power firm's debts—in fulfillment of a provision in RA 9136, or the Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001.

Prepaying some of Napocor's debts could legitimize some loans that were "illegitimate" and could result in the same mistake that the government had committed in relation to the mothballed 620-megawatt Bataan Nuclear Power Plant.

"Twice is too much and the government should not replay its multi-billion-peso mistake in prepaying the BNPP," he said.

He explained that since 1986, the government had paid P64.7 billion—P43.5 billion for the principal and P21.2 billion for interest—for the BNPP. These debts were prepaid last April.

To take advantage of the strong peso and low interest rates, PSALM president Jose Ibazeta said the agency would prepay $1.3 billion of Napocor's debts in the next six months.

He said PSALM would like to unload most of Napocor's yen-denominated obligations and swap most of these with dollar- and peso-denominated loans.

Of Napocor's $7.03 billion total obligations, he said $2.46 billion had prepayment options that PSALM could choose to exercise.

He said PSALM was inclined to exercise this option for $1.3 billion of those debts.

But Tanchuling said this would only result in the incurrence of new debts to retire the old ones and "would launder whatever fraud or irregularity that mired the loan or project's procurement and usage."

"Instead of (being engulfed by) the get-debt-to-pay-debt cycle, what the government should do is use (loan) proceeds to bankroll projects for the power industry, like missionary electrification and Napocor's capital expenditures," he said.

RLC to start high-end leisure project in Cebu

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

ROBINSONS LAND CORP. (RLC) of taipan John Gokongwei, Jr. is set to embark on its first high-end leisure project, following its purchase of a five-hectare property in Mactan, Cebu.

In a disclosure to the stock exchange yesterday, RLC said the property in Punta Engaño district would be developed into a condominium resort. It is targeting retirement home buyers as its main market.

Cebu has been recording growing tourism figures with total foreign arrivals and domestic travelers in the first half of the year rising by 20 percent from year-ago level.

Koreans topped the island's foreign guests list, followed by the Japanese and the Americans.

The local government has recognized Cebu's tourism potential and has been actively formulating strategies to achieve the goals of its 5-year tourism plan.

It is counting on emerging markets of China, Russia, India, and the neighboring Asean countries to boost its foreign arrivals record.

"Robinsons Land Corp. has gained its formidable status and esteemed name with its strategically located residential condominiums, hotels and commercial centers. Having accomplished this feat, we will now build a landmark five-star condo-resort project in Cebu," RLC president Frederick D. Go said in the disclosure.

Manila Ocean Park seen attracting P1B in investments

Aquarium to open on Dec. 15, mall and hotel to follow

By Daxim I. Lucas

A MASSIVE MARINE AQUARIUM AND THE adjoining commercial establishments being built on the edge of Manila Bay are expected to draw in P1 billion in investments, the operator of the facility said on Monday.

In a briefing, officials of China Oceanis Philippines Inc. said the amount would be infused into the infrastructure of the so-called "oceanarium," plus the shopping mall and hotel that would rise in the area.

The Manila Ocean Park's oceanarium—a 12,000-cubic meter aquarium—would cost P600 million, company officials said.

The facility is being built by a consortium of Chinese, Singaporean and Malaysian investors, led by Singapore-based China Oceanis Pte. Ltd. which, in turn, is owned by the China Oceanis Group of Companies.

Touted as one of the largest tourism investments of the year, the oceanarium is being built on an abandoned 8,000-square meter platform jutting out into Manila Bay, just behind the Quirino Grandstand in Manila.

The platform was originally intended for a casino facility but was abandoned after the investor lost interest in the project.

According to the company, the project would be "at par" with the world-famous Singaporean Sentosa underwater world, although the Manila Ocean Park would feature a "fusion concept" that would be the first in the Asia-Pacific region.

"The sprawling three-acre development boasts of an oceanarium, a mall and a high-class hotel in one compound," the company said in a separate statement.

The first phase of the park, its aquarium facilities, is set to open on Dec. 15, 2007. The mall would be launched in April 2008, while the 150-room hotel would begin operations by July 2008.

Company officials expect up to 1.5 million visitors to the oceanarium yearly once it is fully operational, while the boutique mall—with a maximum of 30 stores—is expected to have as many as 28,000 shoppers a day.

China Oceanis leased the platform from the Philippine government for 25 years.

Company officials expressed hopes that the facility would revive the tourism industry in the area which has been on the decline in recent years as local and foreign tourists shifted preferences to out-of-town locations.

"A good attraction would always draw people," China Oceanis president Lim Chee Yong said in a statement. "The Philippines is a good place to visit, but we believe that there aren't enough tourist attractions in Metro Manila."

Financial literacy program launched

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE GOVERNMENT, EXPECTING TO GET a $150-million soft loan from the Asian Development Bank for microfinancing next month, has rolled out a nationwide financial literacy program that aims to help small borrowers determine the best possible ways of making use of their funds.

"Financial literacy is essential in providing information, knowledge and skills on financial matters that will help in decision-making," Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Officer in Charge Nestor Espenilla Jr. said during the launch of the Philippine microfinance literacy campaign yesterday.

It is likewise crucial in helping borrowers avoid getting involved in transactions that were financially destructive and becoming victims of fraud, he added.

"The lack of knowledge on financial options could make the poor more susceptible to debt trap and low savings," National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC) Assistant Secretary Dolores Castillo agreed.

She said financial literacy could enlighten the poor on the products and policies of microfinancing institutions—how to calculate and compare costs, how to determine their cash flow, select what they can afford and prioritize what they really need.

The $150-million ADB loan is the second tranche of a microfinance program loan that aims to make customer-friendly credit facility available to entrepreneurs that are in need of capital. The first tranche of the loan worth $75 million was disbursed in November 2005.

The loan agreement between the government and the ADB stipulates a package of policy reforms that include better consumer protection for microfinance borrowers and increased financial literacy among the country's poor communities.

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BOARD OF INVESTMENTS

DEPARTMENT OF TRADE & INDUSTRY PHILIPPINES

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that **KHI Manila Property, Inc.** is applying for registration with the Board of Investments (BOI) as New Operator of Tourist-Accommodation Facillities (519 room Hotel/Apartel) on a Pioneer Status, with project site located at Makati Avenue cor. Arnaiz Avenue, Makati City.

Any person with valid objection/s on the above-mentioned project may file his/her objection in writing, under oath, with the BOI within three (3) days from the date of this publication.

RUDY B. CAÑA
Director
Project Evaluation and Registration Department

MDBD

Industry & Investments Building 385 Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue Makati City, Philippines
Tel.: (632) 897-6682 Fax Nos.: (632) 895-3521 (IPG) (632) 895-3981 (IG) (632) 895-3978 (TSG)
(632) 890-3051 (AD) E-mail OSAC@boi.gov.ph Homepage: http://www.boi.gov.ph
Cable address: INVESTBOARD P.O. Box 1872 Makati

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Todo Text P10!

BE > THINK > INNOVATE >

With more than 60 years of experience in the pump technology business, the name Grundfos is synonymous with high quality, efficient and reliable pumping solutions in commercial and domestic markets.
Due to our expansion plan, we seek dynamic and relentless individual to fill the positions below.

Accountant (1)

CHALLENGES

- Manage the day-to-day operations of the Accounting Department
- Prepare financial statements and management reports including budgets and forecasts for the Company
- Work with team to establish and implement accounting and financial policies and procedures to ensure compliance with accounting standards and Group financial policies
- Support Group Finance in business and operational matters
- Credit control, tax and cash management
- Participate in system implementation and upgrade
- Liaise with external auditors, bankers, legal and tax advisors on all related matters

YOUR BACKGROUND

- Degree in Accountancy or equivalent professional qualification
- Minimum 3-5 years in professional audit and accounting experience
- Knowledge of international accounting/taxation/transfer pricing/cross-border transactions, financial modeling, SCALA/SAP and Microsoft desktop tools
- Hands-on experience in consolidation preparation and statutory reporting
- Strong analytical, communication and interpersonal skills
- Organized and meticulous
- Proficient in MS Excel, Word and PowerPoint
- Willingness and ability to perform detailed tasks
- Occasional overseas travel is required

Sales Engineer (1)

CHALLENGES

Your main challenge is achieving the sales target of the designated market/product and promoting the Company's products to various levels of customers and achieving the sales quota assigned. You will need to establish good rapport with the customers, advise and update clients on products' applications knowledge and recommend appropriate pump system solutions. This includes pre-sales work such as quotations and system calculations as well as following up on billing and debt collections and handling of the designated Dealer's accounts

YOUR BACKGROUND

You should posses a diploma or degree in Mechanical Engineering. You should have 2-3 years' technical sales experience in wastewater pump business, preferably with good knowledge of pumping system

At least 25-35 years old, pro-active and resourceful individual, who possesses excellent negotiation, communication and motivation skills. You must also be computer literate, willing to be trained and to travel (local and abroad)

BEING RESPONSIBLE IS OUR FOUNDATION

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Grundfos is a leading developer, manufacturer, and supplier of pumps, pumping systems, electromotors, and electronics. The Grundfos Group employs more than 13,500 people in 70 companies located in 40 countries.

FURTHER INFORMATION
Contact us to learn more about your career opportunities with Grundfos. Please send your application with 2x2 ID picture and relevant enclosure to:

THE MANAGER
GRUNDFOS PUMPS (PHILIPPINES), INC.
Ground Floor Natividad I Building,
2308 Pasong Tamo Extension, Makati City 1231 PHILIPPINES

Tel. Nos.	(02) 840-2300 loc. 102/ 813-1547
Fax No.	(02) 813-1548
E-Mail	jdavid@grundfos.com

GO WHERE VALUES MATTER
To Grundfos, Be–Think–Innovate is much more than a clever payoff. When you work for us, values are not just something we talk about – they are a natural, integral part of our day-to-day work. As one of our colleagues, you will experience a workplace that allows you great freedom of action, insists on careful deliberation rather than stopgap decisions, and always encourages you to come up with new ideas.
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GRUNDFOS

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
LIVELIHOOD CORPORATION
7/F One Corporate Plaza Cond., 845 A. Arnaiz Ave., Legazpi Vill.,
Brgy. San Lorenzo, Makati City Tel. No. 817-0771

INVITATION TO BID

The Livelihood Corporation (LIVECOR) is offering for sale or lease the properties described below:

OFFICE CONDOMINIUM (ENTIRE 7TH FLOOR)

	PROPERTY/LOCATION	AREA	DESCRIPTION	FLOOR PRICE
1	**ONE CORPORATE PLAZA** 7th/F, OCP, 845 A. Arnaiz Ave., Makati City	987.75 sq.m.	Condominium (Office Space ONLY, excluding furniture & fixtures)	44,449,000.00

INDUSTRIAL/ RESIDENTIAL LOTS:

1	**LAGUNA PROPERTY** Km. 71, Brgy. San Andres, Alaminos, Laguna	17,394 sq.m.	Industrial Land	8,007,600.00
2	**DAVAO PROPERTY** R. Castillo St., Brgy. Agdao, Davao City	3,696 sq.m.	Light Industrial Land	6,914,000.00
3	**BULACAN PROPERTY** Purok 4, Brgy. Santissima Trinidad, Malolos City, Bulacan	3,397 sq.m.	Residential Land	2,718,000.00
4	**BOHOL PROPERTY** Brgy. Dampas, Tagbilaran City, Bohol	551 sq.m.	Residential Lots (2 adjoining lots)	1,653,000.00
5	**CABANATUAN PROPERTY** Brgy. Kalikid Sur, (Cabu), Cabanatuan City	1,335 sq.m.	Residential Land	304,000.00
6	**BACOLOD PROPERTY** Pag-asa St. Extension, Brgy. Tangub, Bacolod	220 sq.m.	Residential Land	616,000.00
7	**PANGASINAN PROPERTY** Brgy. Buenlag, Binmaley, Pangasinan	1,506 sq.m.	Residential Land	1,092,000.00

Conditions:
1. Winning bidders shall assume responsibility of paying any and/or all taxes relative to the sale or transfer of the properties.
2. Bidders bond shall not be less than 1% of the floor price.
3. Bidding documents can be secured upon payment of non-refundable fee of P1,000.00 at the following address:

   BIDS and AWARDS COMMITTEE
   The Livelihood Corporation (LIVECOR)
   7th Floor One Corporate Plaza,
   845 A. Arnaiz Avenue, Makati City.
4. Pre-Bid Conference will be on November 16, 2007, Friday at 2:00 PM, Conference Room, The Livelihood Corporation, 7th Floor One Corporate Plaza, 845 A. Arnaiz Avenue, Makati City.
5. The sealed bids should be dropped at the designated drop box located at the security desk of the Livelihood Corporation, 7th Floor One Corporate Plaza, 845 A. Arnaiz Avenue, Makati City on or before 2:00 PM on Wednesday, November 28, 2007.
6. All bidders are enjoined to inspect the property/ies before submitting their bids.

For more details, please contact Luz C. Jacinto, BAC Secretariat at tel. no. (02) 817-07-71 or 817-04-64 and Cell No. 0918-6078530 or Felix Samson, Officer-in-Charge, EDMD at tel. no. 531-3324 and cell no. 0928-3038068.

THE CORPORATION RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL OFFERS AND TO WAIVE ANY DEFECTS OR TO ACCEPT SUCH OFFERS AS MAY BE CONSIDERED ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE CORPORATION.

For the Bids and Awards Committee:
E. ALEXIS G. SEVIDAL, CESO IV
Chairman

(PDI--Oct. 23, 2007)

ANNOUNCEMENT

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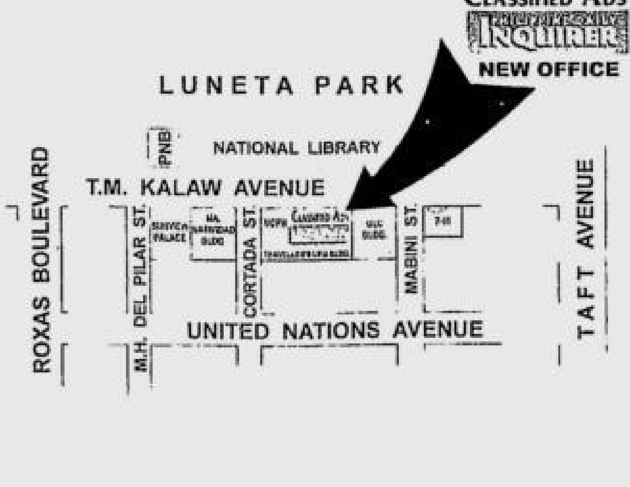

Help us restore our churches!

HAVING BEEN INFLUENCED by the Catholic Church since the occupation of the Spanish regime, our country is dotted with numerous historical churches in almost everyplace. These churches in all its glory, however, are slowly diminishing through the years because of the lack of proper care and renovation.

More than the historical significance of these churches, there is a foundation called Bahay ng Diyos that works with and ties together the resources of leaders, religious and the laity of the Catholic Church and individual and institutional donors in restoring and enhancing the beauty and religious importance of churches in the country, especially those serving communities too poor to finance needed improvements.

To generate funds for its projects, the foundation stages concerts featuring only the best performers. Like on Oct. 22, there will be a dinner concert co-presented by International Container Terminal Services Inc. (ICTSI) and Asian Terminals, Inc. entitled Encore! at Fiesta Pavilion, Manila Hotel presenting the legendary comedienne Mitch Valdez, together with other great performers Audie Gemora, Menchu Lauchengco-Yulo and the world class Dance Sports Champions Ednah Ledesma, Margie De La Rama, Anne Periquet, Cynthia Mamon, Rose Jacob, Elvira Yulo, Jaime Biglang-Awa, Larry Iguidez Jr., Cecil Go Kristian Sese and Girme Gutierrez.

According to Noemi Saludo, the president of the foundation, they are very grateful with the strong support that they are receiving from sponsors and media partners. That is why they, from the foundation, will make sure that Encore! will be really entertaining and memorable.

Saludo, on behalf of the foundation, would like to thank Winace Holdings Philippines, Inc., Splash Corporation, UEM-MARA Philippines Corporation, Peoples Air Cargo and Warehousing Co., Inc., and Port Users Confederation, Inc. Heartfelt appreciation is also extended to Manila Bulletin, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Business World, The Manila Times, RJTV, iFM 93.9, Veritas846, Magic 89.9, RMN and NBN for their unwavering support to this event.

For inquiries, please contact the Bahay ng Diyos Secretariat at telephone numbers 5311182 and 5314701 and cellphone no. 0917-[illegible]

Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION
PhilHealth Regional Office - Caraga
Lynzee's Bldg., 766 J. Rosales Avenue, Butuan City
Healthline (085) 341-6488; 341-2689 www.philhealth.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
Public Bidding for the OFFICE SPACE RENTAL OF PRO - Caraga

The **PhilHealth Regional Office -Caraga** (PRO-Caraga) wishes to invite ALL COMMERCIAL BUILDING OWNERS to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project	RENTAL OF OFFICE SPACE
Location	BUTUAN CITY
Brief Description	AT LEAST 1530 SQUARE METERS OFFICE SPACE
Approved Budget for the Contract	FIVE MILLION NINETY THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED PESOS ONLY (5,090,400.00)
Contract Duration	NOVEMBER 2007 - NOVEMBER 2008
Delivery Period	NOVEMBER 2007

All interested parties are invited for the **Pre-Bid Conference** at the PhilHealth Regional Office - Caraga Conference room, G/F Lynzee's Building, J. Rosales Ave., Butuan City on **October 31, 2007 at 2:00 P.M.** The bid documents shall be available starting **October 31, 2007 to November 9, 2007 from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.** at the General Services Section, Management Services Division through Ms. Amadel G. Ira, BAC Secretariat Head, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Php 3,000.00.**

The bidders shall drop the duly accomplished bid documents in a sealed envelope in the bid box located at the Management Services Division, PhilHealth Regional Office - Caraga. Deadline for submission and receipt of bids shall be on **November 13, 2007 at 1:00 P.M.** The official time clock shall be the bundy clock located at the One-Stop-Shop of the said office. Any bid submitted after the cut-off time will not be accepted. **Opening of bids will immediately follow at the Conference Room.** Any bidder who comes late will not be accommodated.

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last two (2) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The BAC shall determine if each prospective bidder is eligible to participate in the bidding by examining the completeness of each prospective bidders' eligibility requirements or statements against a checklist of requirements, using the **non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria.**

The Bid Security shall be in an amount at least equal to, and not lower than a percentage of the approved budget for the contract in the following forms:

Forms of Security*	Minimum Amount in % of Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid	Amount of Bid Security
Cash, certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit	One percent (1%)	PhP 50,904.00
Bank Guarantee	One & a half percent (1 1/2%)	PhP 76,356.00
Surety Bond (GSIS)	Two & a half percent (2 1/2%)	PhP 127,260.00
Foreign Government Guarantee	One hundred percent (100%)	PhP5,090,400.00

**Personal check not accepted*

For more information, please call the BAC Secretariat at telephone nos.: (085) 341-1200, 342-6992, 342-2689, 341-1159 local: 0.
We look forward to your participation in this worthwhile endeavor.

PhilHealth reserves the right to waive any formality in the responses to the eligibility requirements and to this invitation. PhilHealth further reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, or declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) EDUARDO S. GONZALEZ, M.D.
Chairperson, PRO -Caraga Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - October 16 & 23, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION
PhilHealth Regional Office - Caraga
Lynzee's Bldg., 766 J. Rosales Avenue, Butuan City
Healthline (085) 341-6488; 341-2689 www.philhealth.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
BIDDING FOR I.T. EQUIPMENTS

The PhilHealth Regional Office - Caraga (PRO-Caraga) wishes to invite bidders for the following brand new items with warranties:

4 units Laptop
20 units Thin Client w/LCD Monitor and UPS
2 units Heavy Duty DeskJet Printer
3 units LaserJet Printers
6 units Network LaserJet Printer
6 units Dot Matrix Printer
1 unit External SCSI Tape Drive SUPER DLT
1 unit Network Switch-24 ports
6 units Network PC with UPS
1 unit 3KVA UPS Rack Mountable

The Government of the Philippines, through PhilHealth, had provided funds for which this invitation is issued. The Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to be bid is Php 2,994,000.00.

All interested parties are invited for the Pre-Bid Conference at the PhilHealth Regional Office-Caraga Conference Room, on **October 31, 2007 at 9:00 A.M.** The bid documents shall be available starting **October 31 to November 11, 2007 from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.** at the General Services Section, Management Services Division through Ms. Amadel G. Ira, BAC Secretariat Head, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Php 3,000.00.**

The bidders shall drop the duly accomplished bid documents in a sealed envelope in the bid box located at the Management Services Division, PhilHealth Regional Office - Caraga. Deadline for submission and receipt of bids shall be on **November 12, 2007 at 1:00 P.M.** The official time clock shall be the bundy clock located at the One-Stop-Shop of the said office. Any bid submitted after the cut-off time will not be accepted. Opening of bids will immediately follow at the Conference Room. Any bidder who comes late will not be accommodated.

The BAC shall determine if each prospective bidder is eligible to participate in the bidding by examining the completeness of each prospective bidder's eligibility requirements or statements against a checklist of requirements, using the **non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria."**

The Bid Security shall be in an amount at least equal to, and not lower than a percentage of the approved budget for the contract in the following forms:

Forms of Security	Minimum Amount in % of Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid	Amount of Bid Security
Cash, certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit	One percent (1%)	PhP 29,940.00
Bank Guarantee	One & a half percent (1 1/2%)	PhP 44,910.00
Surety Bond (GSIS)	Two & a half percent (2 1/2%)	PhP 74,850.00
Foreign Government Guarantee	One hundred percent (100%)	PhP2,994,000.00

**Personal check not accepted*

For more information, please call the BAC Secretariat at telephone nos.: (085) 341-1200, 342-6992, 342-6999, 341-1159 local: 0.

We look forward to your participation in this worthwhile endeavor.

PhilHealth reserves the right to waive any formality in the responses to the eligibility requirements and to this invitation. PhilHealth further reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, or declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) EDUARDO S. GONZALEZ, M.D.
Chairperson, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI October 16 & 23, 2007)

RAMON SANTOS PAEZ

Peacefully joined his Creator on October 21, 2007 at the age of 76.

His beloved wife **HELEN**; children **RAUL, GINA & NOEL, ERIC & VICKY, SARA & NICKY, ANNA & ERICSON** and grandchildren request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Arlington Memorial Chapels, Inc., 12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Cremation will be at the Loyola Memorial Park Crematory, Marikina on Thursday, October 25, 2007 at 1p.m.

"We know that God raised the Lord Jesus from death. He will raise us to life with Jesus. He will present us, along with you, to God."

2 Corinthians 4:14

In Loving Memory

on the 31st Death Anniversary of

Adalia B. Peñaflorida

who passed away on 24 October 1976.

Masses will be offered Wednesday, 24 October 2007 at the following:

Santuario de San Antonio Forbes Park	12:15 noon
Sanctuario de San Jose Greenhills	7:15 a.m.
St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori Magallanes	6:00 p.m.
Our Lady of Beautiful Love Merville	6:00 p.m.
Parish of the Holy Sacrifice U.P.	6:00 p.m.
St. Joseph's Church Pototan, Iloilo	5:30 a.m.
St. Clement's Church Laz Paz, Iloilo	5:30 p.m.

The family requests relatives, friends, and pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Death Notice

Kurt Mathew B. Isip

Born on Nov. 08, 1996
Submit to God's grace on Oct. 19, 2007.
His remains lie in state at 67 Aries St., Purok 3, Tipo, Hermosa, Bataan. He will have his final rites today, Oct. 23, 2007.

Our Dearly Beloved Mommy

EDITHA G. VITASA

Peacefully joined our Lord on October 21, 2007 at the age of 60.

Her husband **Rolando**; her children **Jun** and **Olga**, **Patricia** and **Donna** and **Paul**; grandchildren **Paeng**, **Yssa** and **Claire**; brothers and sisters, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz - Sucat (inside Manila Memorial Park), Parañaque City.

Tentative interment will be on Friday, October 26, 2007 at the Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque City.

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."
– 2 Timothy 4:7

In celebration of the 2nd Anniversary of the birth to eternal life of

Angelito Espiritu Bautista

"Sonny"

(December 28, 1939 – October 23, 2005)

His wife **Teresita (Baby) Garcia**, children **Apples**, **Orange** & **Jet**, and **Peaches**, grandchildren **Jelo** & **Isabela**, sisters & brother-in-law, **Ledy** & **Tristan**, **Daisy** and **Peachy**, request relatives & friends to offer prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

Holy Masses will be offered in the following churches:

St. Andrew's Cathedral, Parañaque City	12:00 nn
Christ The King Seminary, Quezon City	6:00 pm
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Shrine, New Manila QC	6:00 pm

"Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod & your staff, they comfort me." **Psalm 23:4**

CRISTINO ESCOBAR GLINOGA

May 14, 1930 – October 20, 2007

His loving wife, **RITA VILLAFLOR GLINOGA**; children & grandchildren, brothers & sisters, brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, cousins, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at St. Peter Chapels (San Lorenzo Ruiz Room), Quezon Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Thursday, October 25, 2007 at Serenity Memorial Garden Novaliches, Caloocan City after the Mass at 9:00 a.m. at Our Lady of Fatima Parish Church, Urduja Village, Novaliches, Caloocan City.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:

❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

Message of Thanks

(On his 40th day)

We the family of the late

DR. JUAN C. LAMASAN, JR.

wish to express our heartfelt gratitude and sincerest appreciation to all those who offered masses and prayers, sent flowers and messages of sympathy and who in countless ways, condoled with and comforted us in our hour of bereavement.

"...absent from the body to be present with the Lord." 2 Corinthians 5:8

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Contract Manager

The US Naval Facilities Engineering command is seeking qualified applicants for the position of service contract project manager at WESMINCOM Zamboanga City, Mindanao. Contract currently encompasses aviation and waterfront operations, dining facility operation, MWR, facilities support. Employment will initially be via annual renewable contract. Qualified applicants will be required to have appropriate clearances and will preferably have had prior military experience. Submit resumé, compensation requirements, and inquiries to: HRO@navfacpacific.us.

Quality Assurance Representative

The US Naval Facilities Engineering command is seeking qualified applicants for the position of quality assurance representative at WESMINCOM Zamboanga City, Mindanao. The position will provide quality assurance for service contracts and construction contracts. Employment will initially be via annual renewable contract. Qualified applicants will be required to have a minimum of a BS in an appropriate engineering curriculum from an accredited university. Submit resumé, compensation requirements, and inquiries to: HRO@navfacpacific.us.

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION

Notice is hereby given that **ENTREX, INC.** has been dissolved. If you have any valid claims against said company, please contact (Rizza B. Blanco) at Tel. No. (5269443).

(PDI - October 4 – 24, 2007)

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION

Notice is hereby given that **Liberty Aviation Corporation** has been dissolved. If you have any valid claims against said company, please contact (Rizza B. Blanco) at Tel. No. (5269443).

(PDI – October 4 – 24, 2007)

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On the instruction of UNIDEN ELECTRONICS PHILIPPINES

Online Auction
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Located: 25 Binary Road, LISP 1, Cabuyao, Laguna

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VIEWING: STRICTLY BY APPOINTMENT
For more details please visit our website at www.goindustry.com

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Sale Date: Thursday, 25 October 2007 - 10:30am
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Office of the President of the Philippines
PRESIDENTIAL MANAGEMENT STAFF
Malacañang

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Office of the President-Presidential Management Staff (PMS), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), hereby invites all interested Government Electronic Procurement System (G-EPS) registered security service providers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the procurement of the following:

Name of Project	Procurement of Security Services for the PMS
Location	PMS Central Office and Regional Field Offices
Brief Description	To provide security services to PMS Central Office and regional field offices
Approved Budget for the Contract	Five Million Two Hundred Thirty Seven Thousand Six Hundred Forty Pesos (Php 5,237,640.00)
Source of Fund	General Appropriations Act
Contract Duration	One (1) year
Delivery Period	01 December 2007 – 30 November 2008

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last three (3) years with the value of the largest single contract at least fifty percent (50%) of the approved budget of the project for bidding, and have key personnel and equipment (owned, lease or under purchase) available for the prosecution thereof. They should also have their Income Tax Returns (ITRs) duly filed through the Bureau of Internal Revenue's Electronic Filing and Payment System (EFPS) for the FYs 2005 and 2006, in accordance with Executive Order No. 398, series of 2005, and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The list of minimum requirements as indicated in the Terms of Reference and in the Instruction to Bidders. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of Republic Act No. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation-A (IRR-A).

The schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	Schedule/Time/Venue
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	22 October - 30 October 2007
2. Pre-bid Conference	30 October 2007, 2:00 PM at the 8/F Operations Room, PMS Building, Arlegui Street, San Miguel, Manila
3. Submission of Eligibility Requirements	14 November 2007, 1:00 PM at the 8/F 8/F Operations Room, PMS Building, Arlegui Street, San Miguel, Manila
4. Opening of Bids	14 November 2007, 2:00 PM at the 8/F Operations Room, PMS Building, Arlegui Street, San Miguel, Manila

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased from the address and contact numbers below upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Two Thousand Pesos (Php 2,000.00) to the PMS Cashier:

Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat
4/F PMS Building, Arlegui Street
San Miguel, Manila
Contact Nos: 734-3971 to 85 local, 162; 734-2192 (TF)

Only the bids of eligible bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened in the presence of the bidders or their duly authorized representative, as evidenced by the Special Power of Attorney or Board resolution. The opening of bids shall be done right after the checking of the eligibility requirements.

The PMS reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any minor defects therein, to annul the bidding process, to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders, and to accept only the offer that is most advantageous to the government.

The PMS assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

ASSEC. ELIZABETH M. GONZALES
Chairperson, PMS-BAC

Manila, 04 October 2007
(PDI–October 23, 2007)

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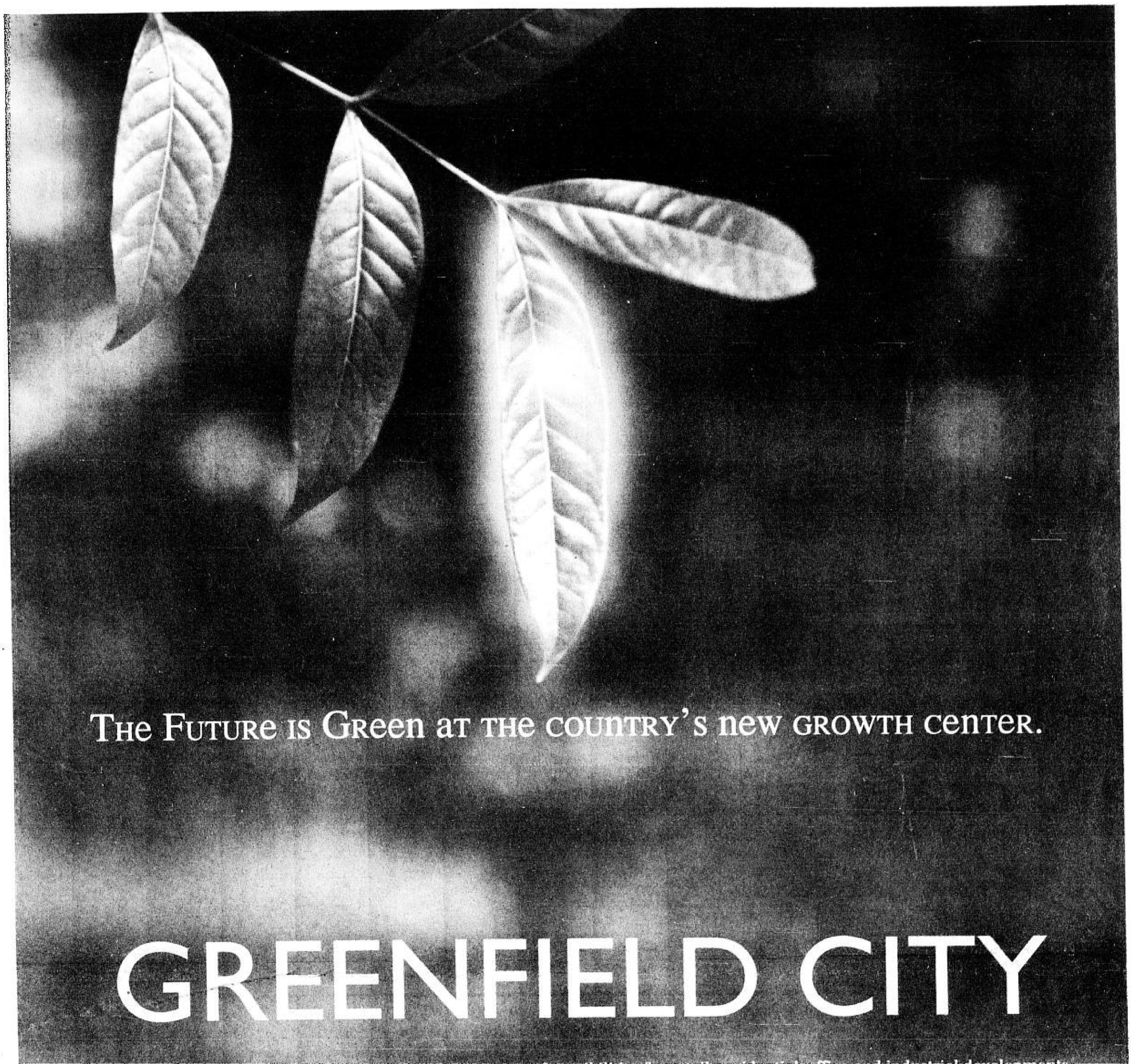

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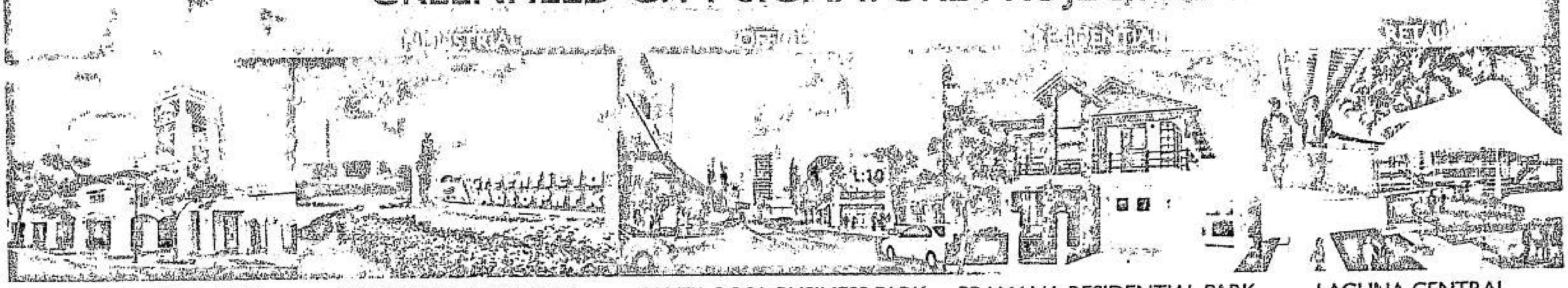

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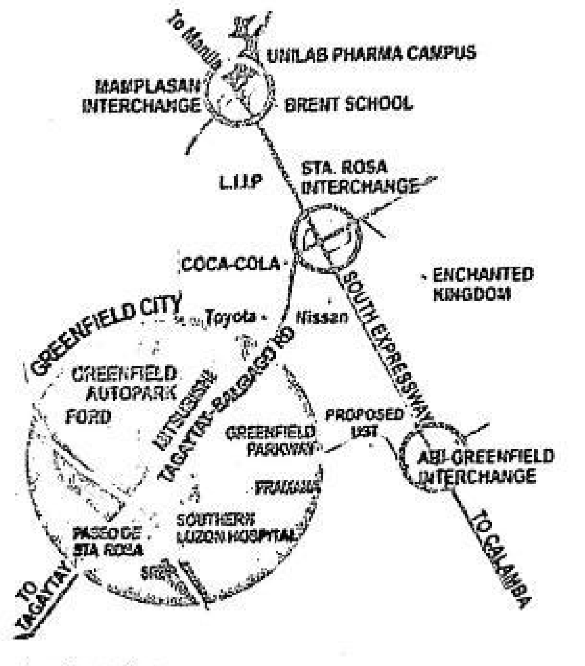
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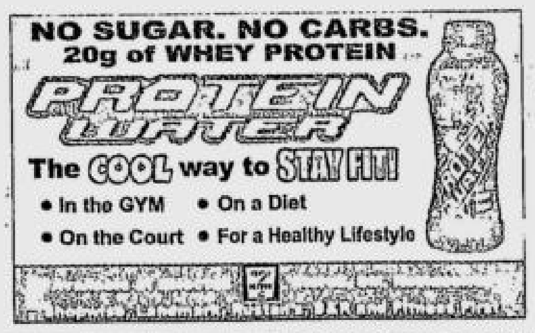

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ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

Lifestyle approach to weight loss

By Mitch Felipe
Contributor

Part 2

A LIFESTYLE APPROACH TO weight loss is the simplest and smartest way to endure the process and experience long-term results.

It makes you realize that you are capable of taking charge of your own weight since you have the freedom to choose what physical activities to undertake.

Studies show that goal-setting works effectively if it is you who set goals for yourself. Taking responsibility for your own weight, rather than relying on others, leads to more lasting results.

A feedback from a coach or a trainer after you have set your goals helps in checking if your goals are realistic.

You should not depend on others to decide for you all the time. Your trainer will provide you the available individualized options after a careful assessment and evaluation.

But, in the end, you will still be the one to choose what activities to pursue.

You should feel a sense of ownership of the program. If you choose walking as your means of burning calories, you should decide how far and where to go, how fast to go, how hard to work, and when to stop.

Moving whenever possible

It is a misconception that the only means of exercise to lose weight is to visit the gym and follow a structured exercise program.

If you are a busy person and become dependent on gym visits, you might lack skills to lose or maintain weight if ever you neglect workout sessions due to work, vacations and other priorities.

Recent studies show the superiority of lifestyle activities over programmed or structured exercise in weight loss.

Lifestyle activities you can sustain long-term like walking, climbing stairs or doing household chores provide opportunities for changes that can be incorporated into your routine, unlike a rigid exercise program and schedule.

A client who is an executive can just spend three hours a week in the gym. She adds to her routine walking and jogging in a park near her place to burn at least 2,000-3,000 calories/week. She maintains a steady rate of 1-1.5 pound of weight loss/week.

Whenever she leaves the country for business trips, she does almost a similar combination for her exercise program.

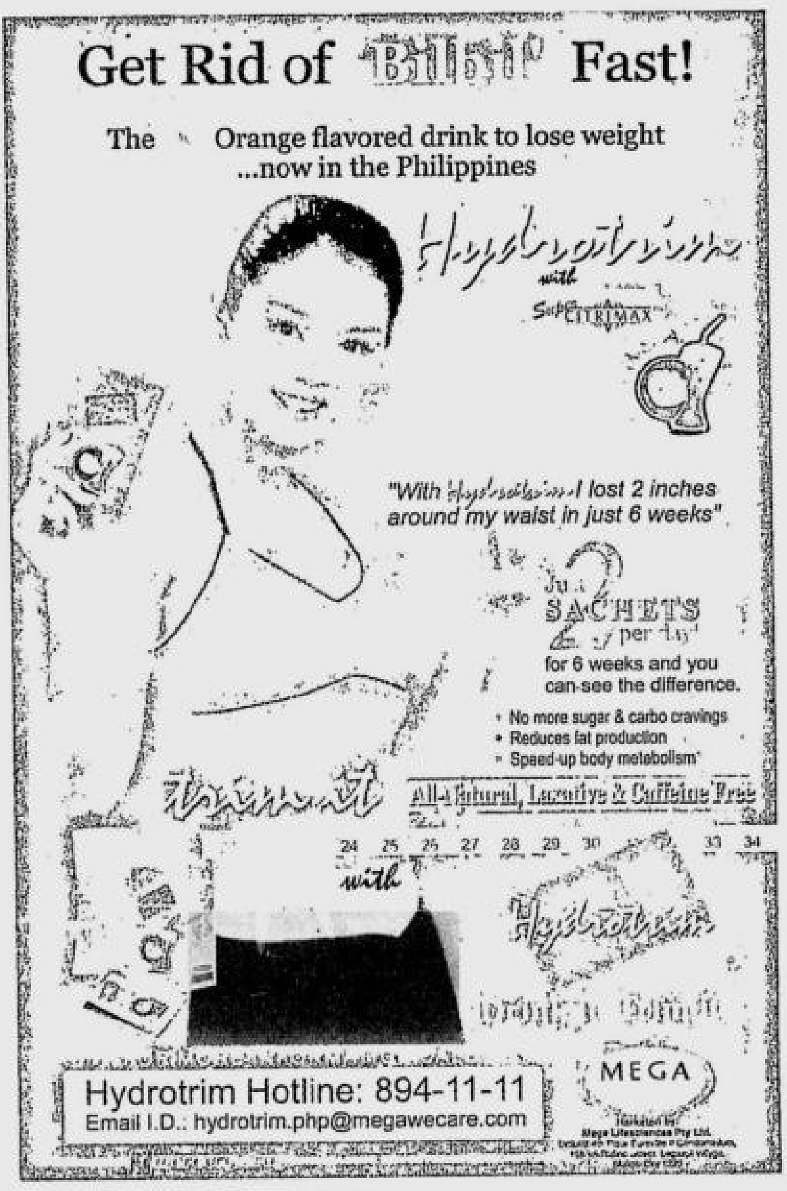
Fun but challenging

Most people trying to lose weight believe that one should work hard and push him-self/herself to the limit to lose weight fast.

But burnout, boredom, injury and stress from overexertion could lead to exercise termination.

The level of intensity should be high enough to produce some physiological benefits but not so high and not too long that

LIFESTYLE/ C3



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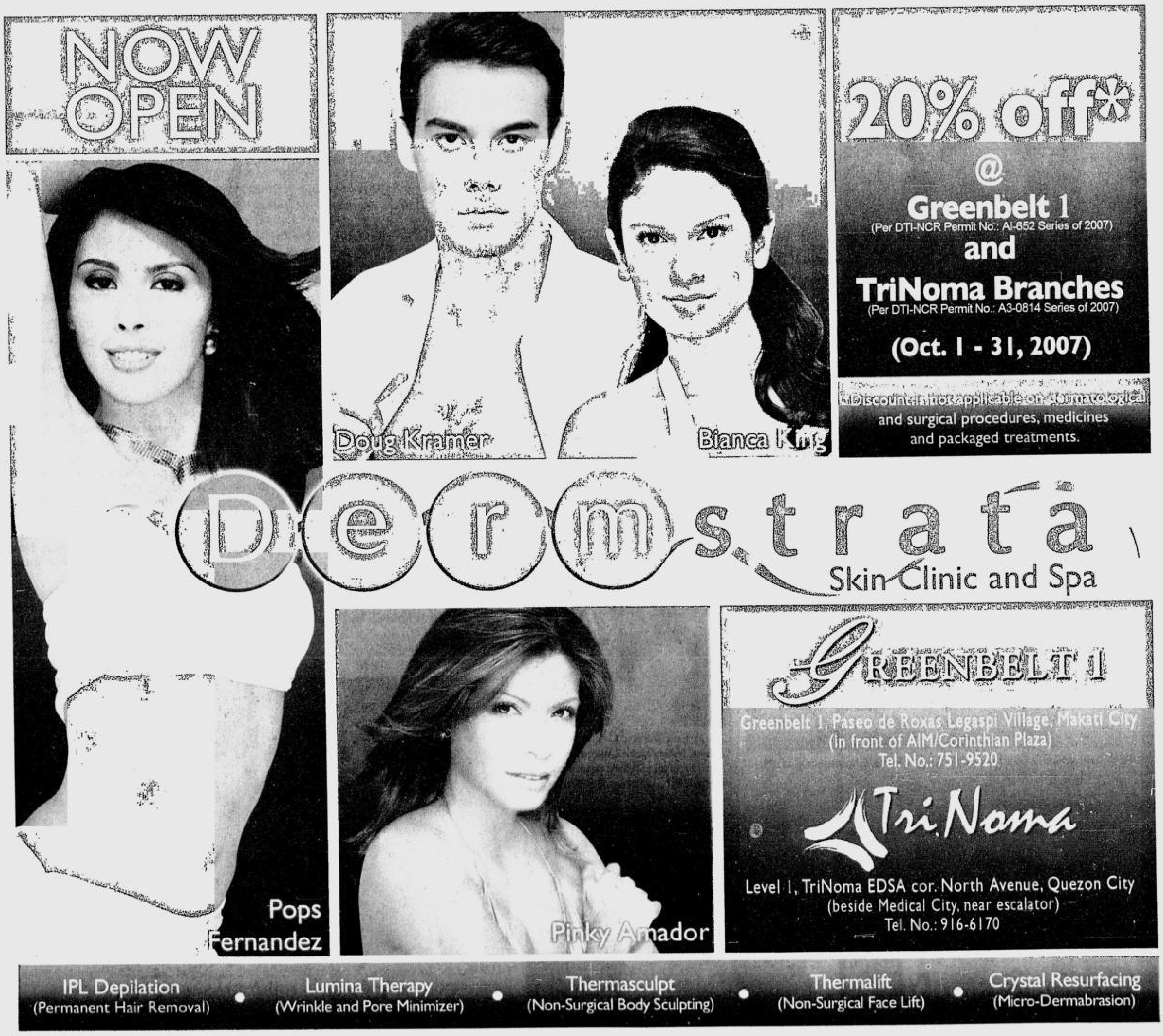

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ARCHITECT Pablito Panlilio, Lita Lilles, Remedios Panlilio, Empress for the Day Doña Afric Valdes vda. de Reynoso, Loleng Panlilio, Therese Coronel Santos and Lulu Guanzon

BENEDICT Reynoso, Jay Araullo, Katrina Laws, Cecille Reynoso Atienza, Bryan Pierce, Tim Laws and Trish Laws

A grand dame's 90th birthday

VICKY Tuason, Paz Sotto and Maryann Ojeda Lumen

TITO and Maryann Reynoso, Ana Olondriz, Pochola and Henry Hagedorn. Seated: Quito Moras

J. EMILIO Reynoso, Melanie Alvarez, Anton Alvarez, Regie Reynoso, Paul and Regina Tan

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by **Alex Van Hagen** using **Kodak** EasyShare system

SHE'S A DISTINGUISHED, LOW-PROFILE woman of substance who, at the glorious age of 90, remembers the names and birthdays of everyone of her nine children, their better halves, her grandchildren and great grandchildren.

The horsy set's favorite stable, Manila Polo Club, was ablaze for the birthday bash of none other than the adorable **Afric Valdes vda. de Reynoso**, *palanggas*.

The Valdes and Reynoso clans turned out en masse to greet the well-loved *Lola* Afric, whose interesting life story was forever captured in the book "The Reynoso Flair," a fitting tribute to an entrepreneur with the Midas touch.

The book was presented on her 88th birthday by her children, who benefited from her keen insight and business know-how.

Her daughters-in-law, power ladies **Maryann Pineda-Reynoso** and **Ophie Canada-Reynoso**, transformed the Turf Room into a gorgeous wonderland of flowers, peach-colored buntings, flowing ceiling overhangs and magical candles.

The superb menu served at different hot and cold stations was the choice of New York-based genius chef and instructor **Lourie Reynoso**, *natch*, who saw to it that everything was simply perfect.

Palangga **Cecile Reynoso Atienza** was overall coordinator of the grand affair, *naturellement*.

Well-applauded Polynesian and belly-dancing numbers were presented by grand daughter-in-law **Karen Navarrete-Anton**, fresh from a victory at the Marlboro Red Racing School of Ferrari in Verano, Italy, where she bested all 20 competitors from all over the world.

Real fun began with the "dancing ladies," neighbors of the celebrator's daughter **Mia** and her hubby **Tim Laws** in Ayala, Alabang.

Even 95-year-old architect **Pablito Panlilio**, a colleague of the late Reynoso patriarch **José** and vivacious Forbes neighbor **Mercy Tuason** joined in the fun, dancing with Afric's cutie-pie grandkids.

The Reynoso sons **Litos, Tito** and **Benedict**; grandsons and great grandsons took turns dancing a nostalgic waltz with the celebrator.

Present were close pals of her children who shared the famous meals at the Reynoso table during their high-school and college days, and even now.

Most touching for Lola Afric was the lobster-and-steak dinner at the Highland's China Palace hosted by her long-time business partner in Sizzling Plate, young taipan **Hans Sy**, mega busy president of SM Prime, and his super eye-catching wife, adorable **Carol**, for both Reynoso and Sy *familles* a few days before the Polo club event, dahlings. Hans was out of town on the night of the Polo bash.

At the end of the magical evening, a book written by the celebrator and her daughter **Edna Reynoso-Anton**, "Kusina ni Lola Afric," was distributed to the guests as party giveaway.

"This new book has all our family's favorite recipes, translated into Tagalog to reach a wider readership," explained Cecille. It is distributed exclusively by Anvil and National Bookstore.

Here's to more years we hope to share with the adorable Afric Valdes vda de Reynoso.

Cheers, my *palangga*.

Tosca is launched

The *tres* popular Dusit Hotel Nikko formally introduced Tosca, its new Italian restaurant, at the mezzanine of the hotel, *palanggas*.

Violinist **Bernadette Cadorniga** put the guests in the right mood by playing Italian music. The hotel's *tres* popular general manager **Ikuo Itoi** gave the welcome remarks. Resident manager **Frank Grassmann** gave us a background on Tosca.

Alessio Loddo, the resto's Italian chef, introduced tenor **Juan Alberto Gaerlan**, who sang "E Luceran le Stelle," a song from the opera "Tosca," accompanied by pianist **Ceejay Javier**. Both are members of the Philippine Opera Company, no less, *palanggas*.

A trivia game was held for the invitees, *palanggas*. The four with the nearest answers to the questions won gift certificates for a stay at Dusit, six months complimentary use of DFiT fitness studio, wine dinner for two, and business set lunch for two at Tosca. Not bad, huh?

With rain pouring outside, it was great to linger, sipping superb wines and champagne from Wine Depot while nibbling on samples of Tosca's yummy dishes, dahlings.

Viva la Tosca!

Christmas bazaar

The civic-minded personalities of the Friends for Cultural Concerns of the Philippines (FCCP) is holding the Pre-Christmas Bazaar, 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Oct. 28, at Hotel Intercontinental, Makati.

MERCY Arrastia Tuason

BONNIE Sycip

LUCEL Teodoro

LULI Perez Rubio Delgado

DR. OPHELIA Adapon

MIA Reynoso Laws

YVONNE Yuchengco and Malou Dy Buncio

These concerned citizens work hard to promote "awareness of our cultural heritage and the development of talented young Filipino artists," explained FCCP's super driving force, **Mimi Valerio**, director of the fundraising project.

As in the past, proceeds will go to talented young musical instrumentalists and vocalists, outreach cultural programs in public schools in and out of Metro Manila, scholarship grants, and to the National Museum Foundation for the training of art teachers and museum guides, among others, *palanggas*.

Other members of FCCP are **Myrna Borromeo, Offie Recto, Cita Lesaca, Nonie Basilio, Nenuca Blardony, Rose Lazaro** and **Mars Labino**.

Check out the bazaar, *palanggas*. You'll find almost everything you'll need and want for yourself or for Christmas gifts.

Do call **Angie** at the FCCP office at 8173905, 8170670 or 0920-9044279.

MEGA banker Chito Sobprepeña of Metrobank, Ambassador Asha Dvitiyananda of Thailand, Dusit Hotel Nikko's popular GM Ikuo Itoi and civic-oriented socialite Anna Sobprepeña

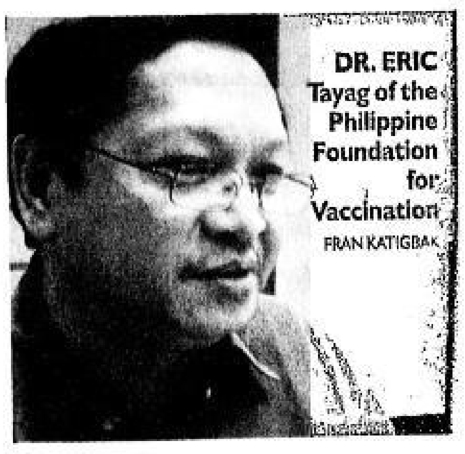
THOMAS Grassman, DHN's resident manager Frank Grassmann, Sara Mc Leod and Nathalie Grassman

CINDY Esquivel and Catherine Canete of American Chamber of Commerce and DHN's cybersmart assistant PR manager Lizel Ventosa

DHN's banquet sales manager Camille Ocay, Asian Tiger's Paulette McCoy Javier and DHN's Paolo Bautista

DHN'S Kriselle Reyes, Canadian Chamber's Grace Ventosa, Heidi del Pilar and DHN's Christine Divinagracia

FCCP Bazaar Committee. Architect Gerry Contreras, co-chair; Helen Ong, member; Mimi Valerio, director; Imelda Cojuangco, chair; Letty Hahn, chair; and Nene Leonor, chair. Standing: Jimmy Laya, Beth Cristobal, Grace Tiongco, Thelma Gana, Tess Castro and Karen Macasaet, members; Boysie Villavicencio, FCCP president; Nikki Valerio; and Noel Gonzales, co-chair



DR. ERIC Tayag of the Philippine Foundation for Vaccination FRAN KATIGBAK

Worthwhile investment

From page C4

treat and even if you're able to treat it… the patient could come down with … long-term complications that can impact the quality of life. *Pwedeng magkaroon ng* mental retardation or learning disability."

Since the government could not yet distribute the pneumococcal vaccine, Tayag suggested it should encourage the private sector to promote it.

"The thrust of the World Health Organization, in fact, is to narrow the time gap between the introduction of a new vaccine, like the conjugate pneumococcal vaccine, in rich countries and in poor countries like the Philippines," he said.

Initiatives have been made by both government and private organizations to support the introduction of the vaccine and, eventually, fund its distribution.

"IPD is… a condition that has been going on for quite a long time," Tayag said. "Many have died of the disease but nobody seems to mind."

INDIA'S Dr. Nitin Shah FRAN KATIGBAK

Breast cancer vigilance during pregnancy

ABNORMALITIES LIKE LUMPS, nipple discharges and other changes in the breast during pregnancy and lactation are often not cancerous.

But breast cancer remains a risk even during pregnancy.

Dr. Cristina Santos, a breast cancer surgeon, says pregnant women should be more aware of changes in their breasts during pregnancy and lactation. Monthly breast self examination should continue even during pregnancy and lactation, she says. It is also important that a regular clinical breast examination be conducted as part of pre-natal and post-natal care.

Nellie Resurreccion, a 33-year old mother of four, is seven months pregnant and was diagnosed with stage III-B breast cancer. She noticed a small lump in her breast last year.

Despite strong suspicions that it was breast cancer because an aunt also had the disease, she ignored the lump and concentrated on caring for her four children.

She worried that going to the doctor would further strain the family's already tight budget. Resurreccion's husband is a tricycle driver and she is a housewife.

When she became pregnant again, she noticed that the lump became noticeably bigger and more painful. Breathing also became more difficult. She told her obstetrician who advised her to undergo biopsy.

The biopsy confirmed her suspicions. Her case was complicated by concern for the unborn child.

She was told by the doctors she could give birth early. She also had to undergo chemotherapy before surgery. So far, Resurreccion had not yet undergone mastectomy to remove the malignant mass in her breast.

But doctors are hopeful chemotherapy will reduce the tumor's size and make it possible to operate soon.

Santos stresses that early diagnosis and early treatment save lives. Saying there is minimal risk to the unborn child, the physician says pregnant women with breast cancer should not delay treatment.

Pregnant women, she says, are treated in the same way as non-pregnant patients.

Santos says it is safe for pregnant women with breast cancer to undergo surgery and chemotherapy after the first trimester of pregnancy.

Chemotherapy would not harm an unborn child after the first trimester. But hormonal and radiation therapies should only be given after delivery.

She adds that treatment for pregnant and non-pregnant women depends on the type, extent, and stage of breast cancer at the time of diagnosis.

NELLIE Resurreccion is determined to survive breast cancer with her baby.

Santos says the involvement of family members, especially the husband, is a critical factor in helping a patient battle the disease.

The Philippine Wacoal Corporation and Philippine Foundation for Breast Care Inc. (PFBCI) are collaborating to raise awareness of the dreaded disease to mark World Breast Cancer Awareness month this October.

Its "Keep Abreast" campaign at the Ateneo Professional Schools in Rockwell, Makati, which is now on its third year, will have its last session on Oct. 27.

The free seminar includes a DVD presentation, open forum on the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of breast cancer and free clinical breast exam.

Limited seats are available.

Reservations should be made through the Wacoal Customer Service hotline: 8841517 or customer.service@wacoal.ph.

Lifestyle approach to weight loss

From page C1

you will experience pain or discomfort so you stop exercising.

Short duration, moderate intensity and consistent exercise frequency work best.

Choose activities that you enjoy so that you will not even notice that you just finished one hour of workout.

My client really loves dancing and she's not ready at the moment to finish even a 15-minute workout on a treadmill. She also enjoys walking and shopping.

She lost and maintained her weight through activities that provided continuous pleasure and excitement.

Adapt to your style

What works for others, like losing weight by doing the hottest group exercise in town, might not work for you. Choose an activity suited to your personality, skills and interests.

Do not push yourself to do things that you do not see yourself doing long-term only because it is the talk of the town. You can explore it but, in the long run, choose what really interests you.

I notice that my goal-oriented clients stick to physical activities like running when they set a weekly target distance. This enables them to progress gradually.

But some who love to work out with people around them will choose group exercise classes over activities that require more discipline and patience. Others prefer a combination of both.

Balance

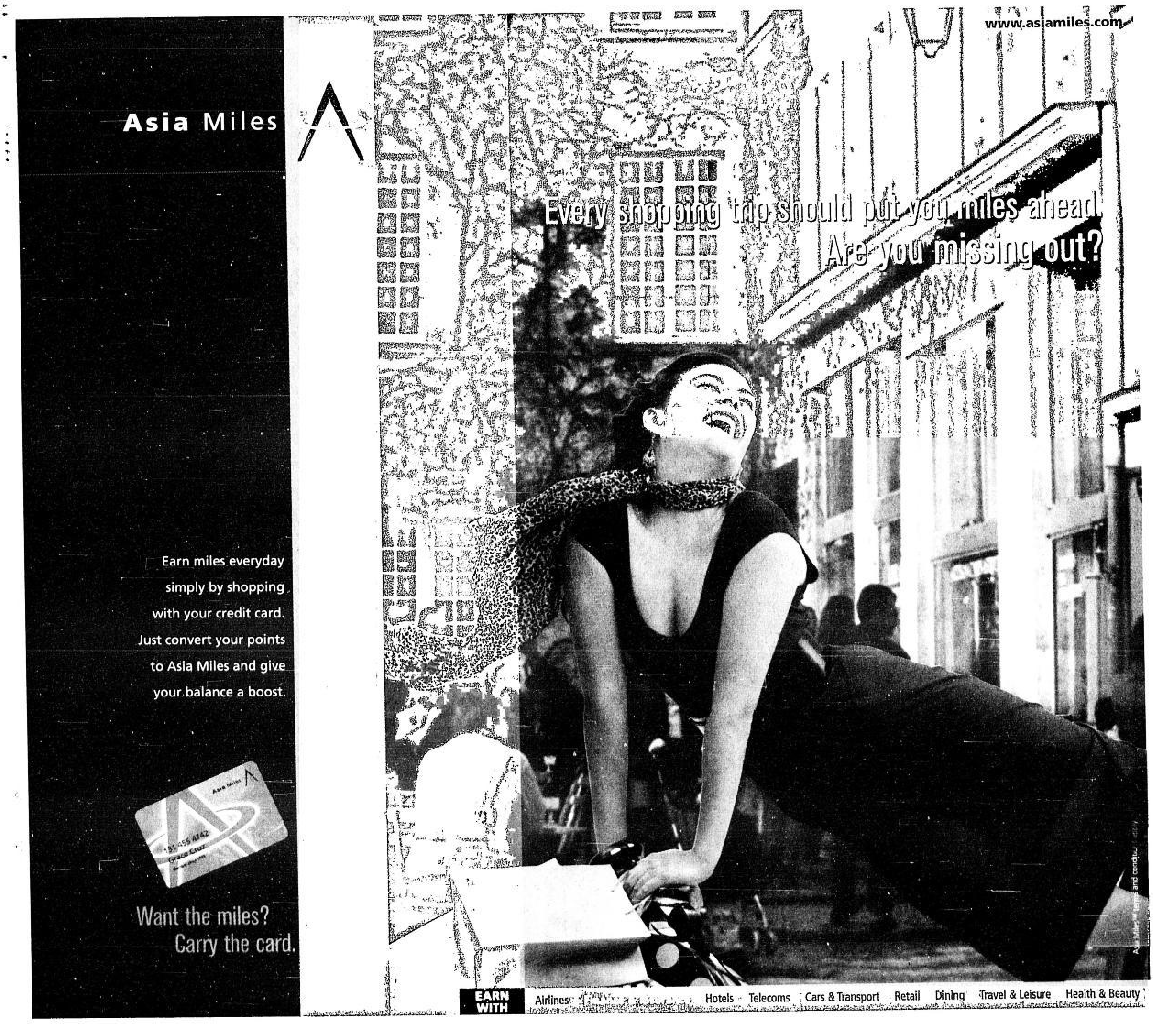
Weight is just a part of the bigger picture. If you rely too much on your weight as a measure of success and disregard other aspects of your life, you might not be able to carry on and just give up.

You might have lost a significant amount of weight, but suffer from injuries, lack rest or are having an unhealthy relationship with yourself.

Rest is also a major contributing factor to weight loss. Studies show that getting enough sleep prepares your mind and body for the next day and prevents you from developing stress hormones responsible for attracting more fats. It will also let you make clear judgments when choosing your food for the day.

Recognize positive things you are experiencing like your health, moods, self-esteem as a result of your renewed behavior and attitude. Focus on your quality of life and over-all results. Weight loss is your bonus.

E-mail the author at mitchfelipe@gmail.com



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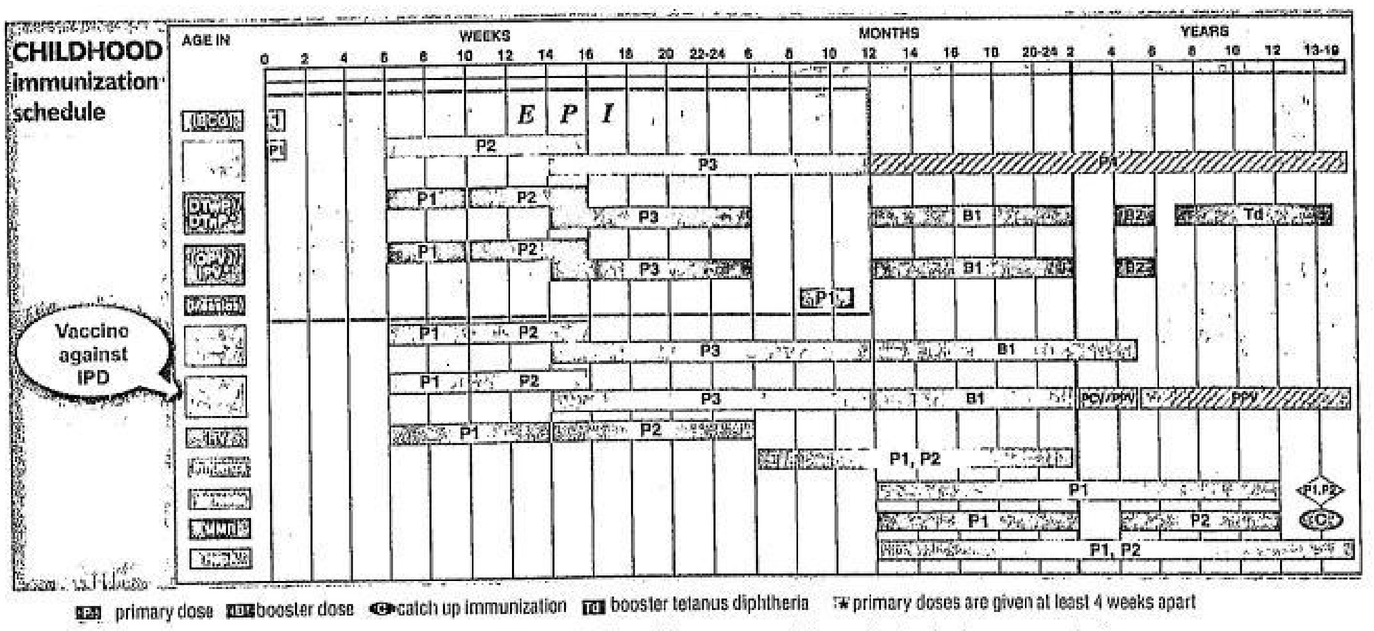
Worthwhile national investment

Experts stress that disease prevention through vaccination is worth the price

By Fran Katigbak

VACCINATION AS INVESTment?

That may not seem like a practical idea in a developing country where there are other pressing needs to provide for. Times are difficult and, to most families, every hard-earned peso counts.



P1 primary dose B1 booster dose C catch up immunization Td booster tetanus diphtheria ★ primary doses are given at least 4 weeks apart

Ideally given at birth. If given beyond 12 months do PPD. Give BCG if negative.

1st dose is given as early as 12 hours of life. The Hep B vaccine birth dose may also be used as the first dose in a 3-dose primary series. Doses are at least 4 weeks apart.

A fourth dose is needed for the following:

- If the 3rd dose is given at age less than 6 months.
- If no birth dose was given using the EPI schedule of 6, 10, 14 weeks.
- For preterm infants < 2kg, because of poor immunogenicity of the vaccine for these infants, the initial dose should not be counted in a 3-dose immunization schedule to complete the series

Pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV)

Pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine (PPV) is recommended for certain high-risk groups in addition to PCV. For healthy children, no additional doses needed if PCV series is completed.

If started 13 years and above, give 2 doses 4 weeks apart.

2 doses given 6-12 months apart.

Vaccines in the pink area, enclosed in parentheses, are vaccines given in the Philippine Expanded Program of Immunization (EPI) of the DOH. In the EPI, measles is given from 9-11 months as a single dose

Vaccines outside of the pink area are other recommended vaccines.

Influenza Vaccine is also recommended in:

- Children with the following high-risk factors: chronic cardiovascular disease (eg. congenital heart disease, valvular heart disease), chronic lung disease (eg. asthma), chronic metabolic disorders, renal disorders and hemoglobinopathies, children receiving long-term aspirin treatment.
- Timing of vaccination: The flu vaccine is recommended to be given annually preferably from February to June. Children (6 months-8 years) receiving Influenza vaccine for the first time need 2 doses, at least 4 weeks apart.
- Optional for healthy children > 2 years old.

Rotavirus Vaccine (RV):

- Two oral doses 4-8 weeks apart.
- 1st dose, preferably given to infants between 6-14 weeks of age.
- OPV and RV doses must be given 2 weeks apart.

VACCINES FOR SPECIAL GROUPS

Typhoid Vaccine:

- For school-age children and older individuals.
- Recommended also for travelers to areas where there is risk of exposure to *S. typhi*, persons with frequent contact with *S. typhi*.
- Single dose IM as early as 2 years of age. Revaccination every 2-3 years if with continued or repeated exposure to *S. typhi*.

Meningococcal Vaccine:

- Recommended in outbreak as declared by health authorities, and children and adolescents known to be at high risk for disease.

(Recommended by the Committee on Immunization, Philippine Pediatric Society Inc., Pediatric Infectious Disease Society of the Philippines and Philippine Foundation for Vaccination)

But medical experts at the Science Writers' Workshop in Bangkok, Thailand, say immunization against infectious diseases is worth the expense.

The conference, sponsored by the global pharmaceutical company Wyeth, aimed to promote anew the idea that disease prevention could help families—even entire communities—live better and healthier.

Pediatrician Nitin Shah, former president of the Indian Academy of Pediatrics, presented data and current information showing how vaccines had contributed significantly to controlling, even eradicating, diseases.

"Vaccination is the most important and cost-effective public-health measure ever produced for any type of dreaded disease," said Shah, an expert on infectious disease prevention and treatment.

In India, he said, vaccines reduced the number of reported cases of diseases like tetanus or lockjaw from 23,356 in 1990 to 2,587 last year; pertussis or whooping cough, from 112,416 in 1990 to 22,616 last year; and diphtheria, from 8,425 in 1990 to 2,472 last year.

New vaccine

Shah discussed the recently developed pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV-7) designed to prevent invasive pneumococcus disease (IPD), an acute bacterial infection caused by *Streptococcus pneumoniae* or pneumococcus.

Serious diseases caused by pneumococci include pneumonia (inflammation of the lungs); meningitis (inflammation of meninges, fluid-filled membranes that cover the brain and spinal chord); and bacteremia (bacteria in the blood).

Other common but less serious infections include otitis media (middle-ear infection), sinusitis and bronchitis.

Most vulnerable are children below 2 years of age and adults above 65.

In a 2005 report, the World Health Organization (WHO) said up to one million children under 5 died each year from pneumococcal diseases. Over 90 percent of deaths occurred in underserved populations in developing countries.

WHO recommends that countries that register over 50,000 deaths annually among children less than 5 years old should prioritize the introduction of PCV-7 in their immunization programs.

Shah said, in places where immunization for pneumococcal disease had been implemented, not only had IPD been virtually eliminated in young babies but the so-called herd effect was produced, protecting even those who had not been vaccinated like parents and the elderly population.

Not in EPI

In the Philippines, although Wyeth has made PCV-7 available, the vaccine is still not included in the Department of Health's Expanded Program for Immunization.

Dr. Eric Tayag of the Philippine Foundation for Vaccination, meeting with Philippine media representatives later, said, "*Pagpapabakuna* should be regarded as an investment. It should not be thought of as an [additional expense], or that [it would only protect the immunized person].

He said people who were easiest to convince about the need to immunize against IPD were "those who have been financially burned by having somebody in the household develop an infectious disease."

IPD may not be as dramatic an issue as, say, meningococcemia, but the disease could be as deadly.

Like meningo, it is transmitted through droplets from a carrier.

Records available show one of three Filipinos with IPD die, a mortality rate of about 35 percent.

Though IPD was treatable, Tayag said it could become resistant to antibiotics, like several other infections.

"We haven't gone that way yet, but we probably will—just like most Asian countries...," he said.

"IPD may become difficult to

WORTHWHILE/ C3

MEDICard The Healthcare I Deserve!

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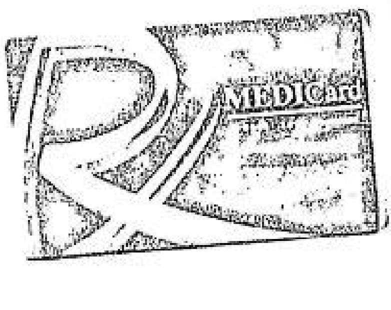
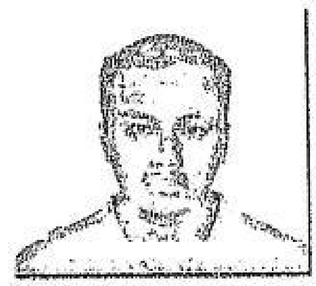
What is Osteoporosis?

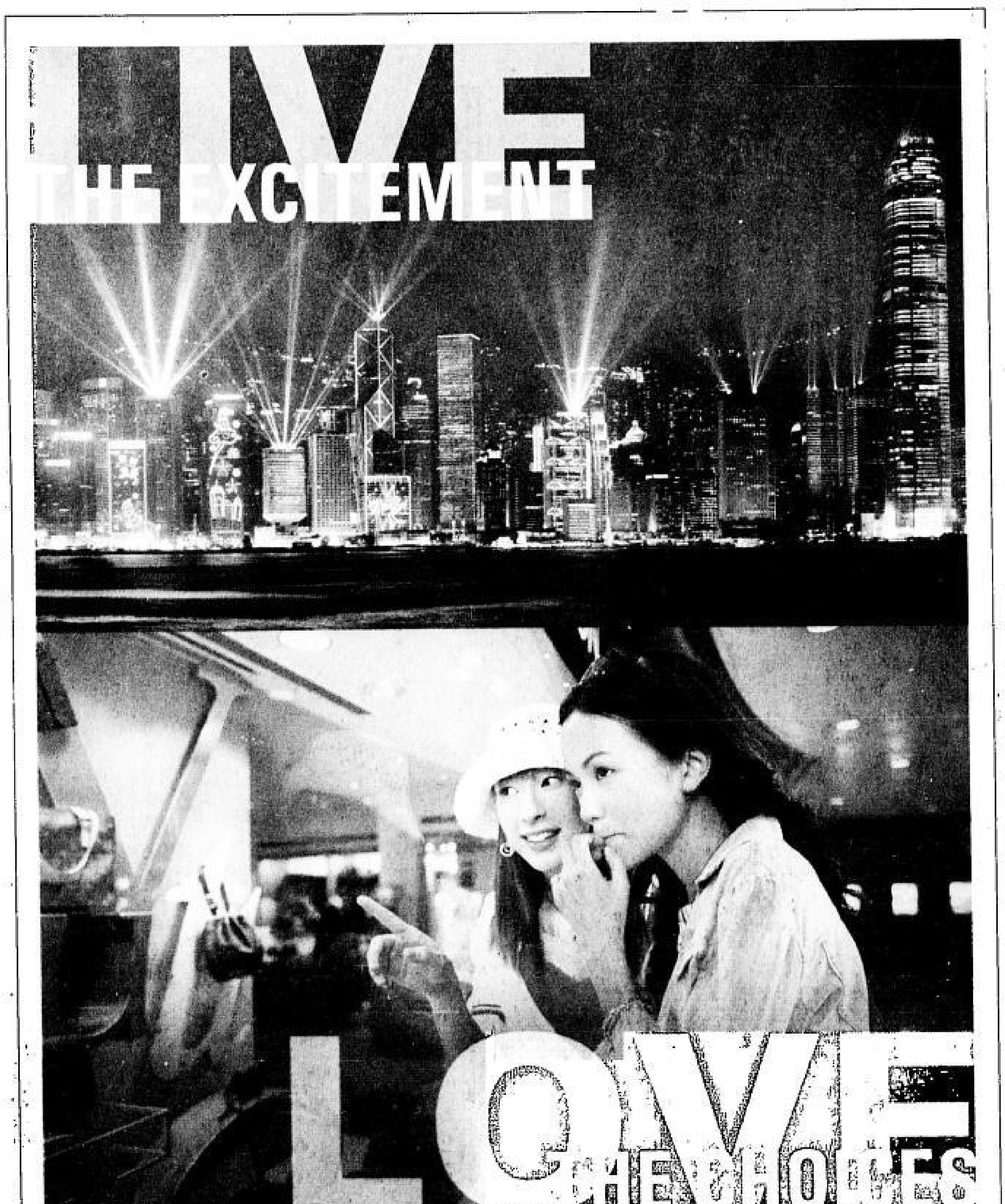
Osteoporosis means "porous bones", it causes bones to become weak and brittle. It occurs when the body fails to form enough new bone, or when too much old bone is reabsorbed by the body, or both instances. This is a silent disease because you might not know you have it until you break a bone. It is estimated that 1 in 3 women and 1 in 12 men over the age of 50 worldwide have osteoporosis. Osteoporosis can impair a person's ability to walk and may cause prolonged or permanent disability or even death. The diagnosis of osteoporosis is made on measuring the bone mineral density. The most popular method is dual energy x-ray absorptiometry (DEXA). DEXA is considered the gold standard for the diagnosis of osteoporosis. This test is readily available and done for free in big centers through out the country. Bone mineral density testing should be performed on all postmenopausal women with fractures, all men aging 55 and over, all women under 65 with an additional risk factor for osteoporosis (besides menopause), and all women aging 65 and over. The objective of treatment of osteoporosis is to increase the bone mass. There are a number of strategies to increase bone mass like maximizing calcium and Vitamin D intake, taking anti-resorptive drugs, minimizing the using of drugs that inhibit normal bone growth and formation, encouraging weight-bearing activities, ensuring normal sex steroid exposure and stop smoking.





Dr. Harem Deiparine provides us with this week's discussion on Osteoporosis. Dr. Deiparine, a medicine graduate of UV Gullas College of Medicine, took his residency training for Orthopedic Surgery and Traumatology at the Philippine Orthopedic Center. He is a member of the Philippine Orthopedic Association Central Visayas Chapter and the Masbate Medical Society. Dr. Deiparine spends his free time playing with his children and surfing the internet for some updates. You may also find him in the gym pumping some iron. MEDICard members may avail for his consultations at Perpetual Succor Hospital from Monday to Friday 3 to 5 in the afternoon

MEDICard's Medical Director, Dr. Nicky Montoya answers questions on health through the assistance and expertise of MEDICard's network of accredited specialists. Write to Dr. Nicky or E-mail him at inquiry@medicardphils.com for your inquiries on health matters.



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Your Doctor Knows Best

Honey Sarita J. Abarquez MD, FPCP, FPSO, FPSMO

Question:

I am 45 years old and was diagnosed to have breast cancer. What are my treatment options?

Doctor Says...

(Continuation from last week's column)

Once breast cancer has spread to other tissues or organs in the body, it is called metastatic breast cancer. Cancer cells can grow and increase in number at sites distant from the breast. This can occur even before a diagnosis of breast cancer is made, during or after adjuvant treatment. Cancer cells can travel to the brain, liver, bones, lungs, and skin through the blood vessels or through the smaller lymphatic channels. Lymphatic vessels run alongside veins where body fluid and dead cells collect.

The primary goal in the treatment of metastatic breast cancer is to improve the quality of life of the person affected by the condition. This means relieving her or his (distressing) symptoms. Each person with metastatic breast cancer has a unique situation. Treatment, therefore, is individualized to maximize effectiveness and benefit.

Treatment options for metastatic breast cancer include anticancer medications in the form of chemotherapy, hormonal agents, biologic agents or targeted treatment, and bone modifying agents. In general, anticancer medications work to control the size and the spread of cancer in the body in order to lessen, if not totally relieve most of the person's symptoms.

Hormonal therapy acts on hormone sensitive breast cancer, blocking the effects of sex hormones estrogen and progesterone, thereby preventing further cancer growth. For hormone non-responsive cancers, **chemotherapy** may provide control for rapidly dividing cancer cells in the body. **Biologic agents or targeted treatment** may be utilized for specific target expressing breast cancers. **Bone modifying agents** stabilize, if not reverse bone metastasis.

Specific treatments may be recommended depending on the metastatic site of breast cancer and the symptoms experienced. **Radiation therapy** is an example of specific treatment employing radiation to reduce the size of cancer and to alleviate symptoms. Controlled amounts of radiation to affected bones provide rapid relief of pain and prevention of complications like fractures and compressions. Radiation to brain metastasis is also used to reduce the size of the cancer and relieve symptoms. Metastatic breast cancer foci may be removed surgically from affected organs. In the lungs, isolated masses may be removed surgically, or fluid may be evacuated from the pleural space. **Surgery** also has role in the management of bone fractures, repairing and replacing joints, and stabilizing bone compressions caused by the cancer. Pain management and psychosocial support is also very important. Medications complimented with relaxation, counseling and support activities are vital in maintaining the comfort and quality of life of a person with metastatic breast cancer.

Each person's experience with cancer is unique. Treatments are individualized for the patient's needs. Each treatment has its benefits and potential side effects. It is best to consult your doctor about the treatment that is most suitable for your condition and have an open discussion about your concerns.

For proper guidance, evaluation and management, always consult your doctor.

Dr. Honey Sarita J. Abarquez is an Internist/Medical Oncologist. She is an active consultant of the Davao Doctors Hospital and the Brokenshire Integrated Hospital. She holds clinic at the Davao Doctors Hospital, Davao City. Dr. Abarquez is also an Assistant Professor at the Davao Medical School Foundation – College of Medicine.

This column is supported by AstraZeneca Philippines as part of its disease awareness campaign. This is not intended to replace the advice of a healthcare professional. Always consult your doctor.

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INSIDE OUT
Cory Quirino

The vanity checklist

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

CONTRARY TO GENERAL BELIEF, VANITY IS good.

In the realm of wellness, vanity has a broader, more expansive definition. It means caring enough about yourself to look after your body, mind and spirit better.

To work on yourself, you have to start with you. And it is all about love.

Love is...

A line from a song says, "Love isn't love till you give it away." How true.

Question is, how can you give love away if there is not enough love inside you to give away? In short, love yourself—better and better each day.

And when you have reached that level of satisfaction and confidence to say "I have so much of me to share with others," then you are ready to give love away.

But until then, let us practice self-love by going through this checklist. See where you are and how much more you have to do to fulfill your commitment to yourself.

Know that...

1. You are the master of your own body. No matter what your doctor, gym trainer, husband/wife, boss/officemate tells you, you have to take responsibility for your own health. There is nobody else to blame for your success/failure except yourself. Understood?

2. Your body is mortal. In time, it can and will weaken and age. Abuse, neglect and ignorance can speed up the aging process.

3. It is never too late. A wellness lifestyle can successfully delay the aging process and, in many cases, reverse it to make you look 10 years younger.

4. Stress is a major cause of illness. Do not disregard its damaging effects on the nervous system and the immune system.

5. You have a choice whether or not to succumb to temptation—physically, emotionally and spiritually. Example: overeating/bingeing, being angry and bitter, thinking ill of others, entertaining self-defeating and destructive thoughts.

Vanity class 101

Daily:

1. Wake up with a sense of adventure and conquest. Affirm to yourself: "Today is my victory."

2. Drink two glasses of clean, purified water upon waking.

3. Take two tablespoons of virgin coconut oil on an empty stomach.

4. Take a brisk 30-minute walk daily. Use sun protection.

5. Have a hearty breakfast. Swear off oily/fried foods for your first meal of the day.

Note: Do not skip breakfast if you have a heavy agenda for the morning. You will need all the energy that nutritious food can give you. Try a platter of fruits: kiwi, banana, papaya, watermelon. Drink fresh vegetable juice (carrot/sugar beets, coconut water/romaine lettuce, bitter gourd/papaya)/coconut/cucumber). Make your own combination.

Snack on healthy food items: dried fruits, nuts, fresh fruit (apple, guava).

6. Make sure lunch and dinner consist of vegetables/salad for starters and a moderate amount of carbohydrate and protein. Never have a meal without a generous serving of vegetables. This is a rule.

7. Never leave the house without a smile on your face and never go home without that same smile.

8. Whistle a tune when a negative thought enters your head. Or, resurrect a happy time in your life when you feel down.

9. Pray/meditate by embracing your silence 10 minutes, twice daily.

Weekly:

1. Enroll in a gym. At least three times a week do your routine. Make it a combination of cardiovascular exercises and weight-training. You do not just want to lose weight—you want to have definition, right?

2. Have a relaxing massage.

3. Scrub down your body to polish it up.

Beauty polish

Get an old towel—the roughest you can find. Soak it in oil (virgin coco oil, olive oil, soya, etc.). Then rub it as hard as you can all over your body until all the grime peels off.

4. Have an organic coffee enema or a lemon flush.

Coffee Enema

- One full serving spoon-size (or two tablespoons of organic coffee, *barako*/Batangas coffee is OK)
- One pint of water

Boil coffee for 7-10 minutes.

Strain. Allow it to cool down.

Hold in an enema for 10-15 minutes, allowing 1/3 of the pint to enter your body each time.

Lemon Flush

Squeeze one whole lemon in a pint of warm water. Apply also in 1/3 portions each time. Great for people coming down with a cold/cough. After the session, take two capsules of acidophilous (live bacteria, available in health food stores and drugstores).

5. Make time for God. Go to Mass/prayer and worship.

Monthly

1. See your dermatologist for regular facials, hairdresser for hot oil treatment.

2. Go out of town or embrace the great outdoors. It is good to get out of the city.

3. Take a vacation from cell phones. You will find yourself less tied to sending text messages or answering calls.

4. Do visit a charitable institution and make a generous donation to a worthy cause.

Yearly

1. Go on an extended vacation with family and loved ones.

2. Try not to give gifts to friends this Christmas. Instead, donate to a favorite charity and tell your friends you made a donation in their names.

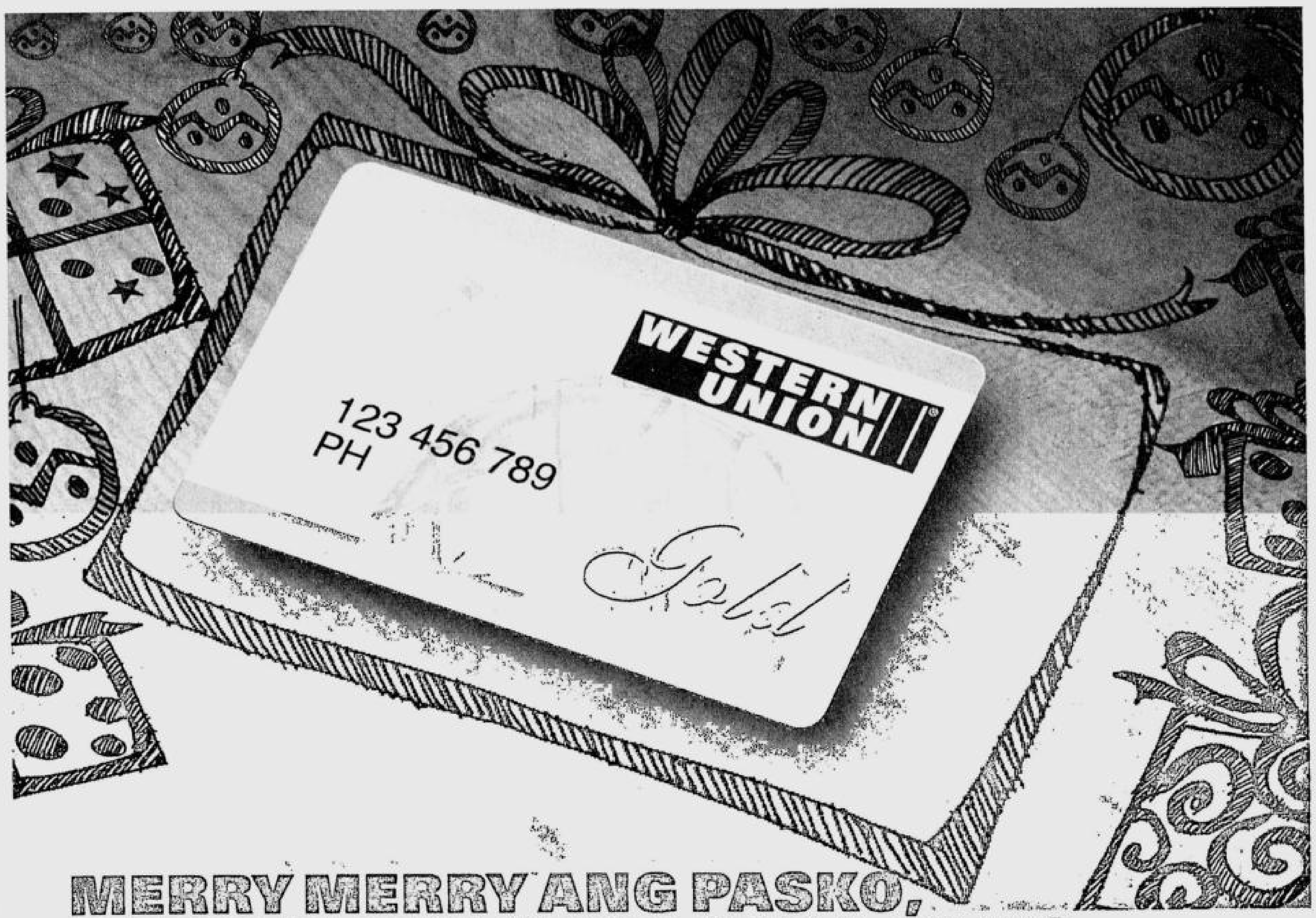
3. Have an executive check up. Have a dental checkup every six months.

4. Forgive anyone who has wronged you or let you down so that you can live your life with a lighter heart.

Golden Rule: Give yourself a second and third look in the mirror before you leave the house and say to yourself "I am looking good."

Love and light!

Philippine College of Alternative Medicine Seminar "Stop Smoking in 10 Days," Oct. 25, Manila Polo Club; 0917-5306468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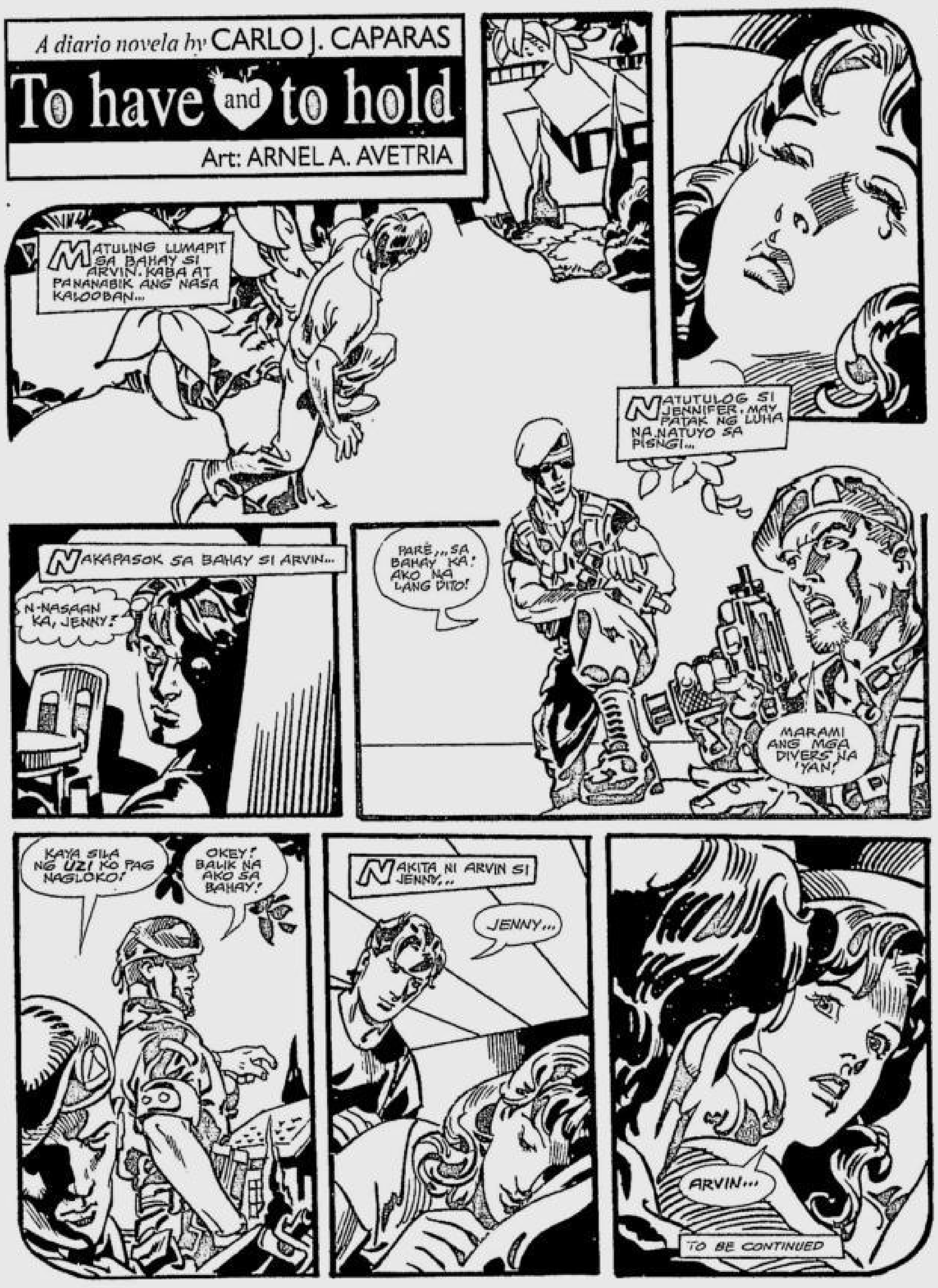
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2007

A diario novela by CARLO J. CAPARAS

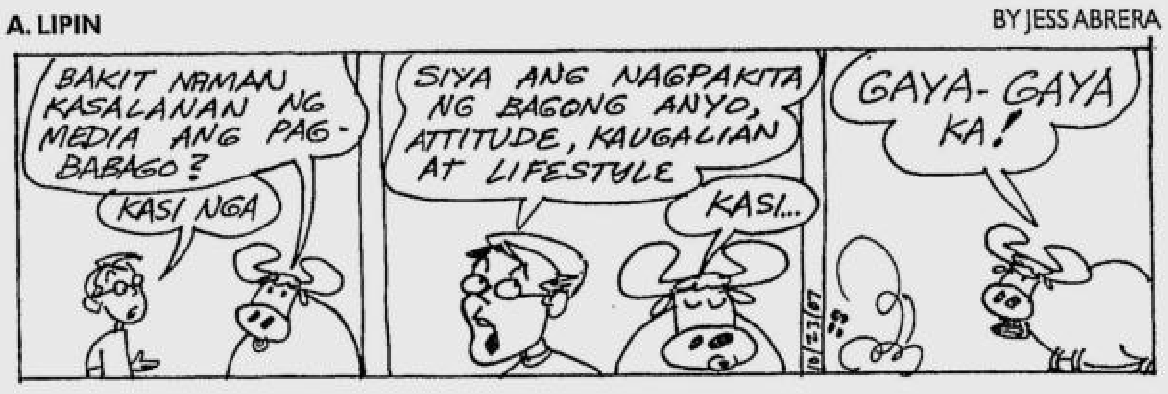
To have and to hold

Art: ARNEL A. AVETRIA


MATULING LUMAPIT SA BAHAY SI ARVIN. KABA AT PANANABIK ANG NASA KALOOBAN...
NATUTULOG SI JENNIFER. MAY PATAK NG LUHA NA NATUYO SA PISNGI...
NAKAPASOK SA BAHAY SI ARVIN...
N-NASAAN KA, JENNY?
PARE,.. SA BAHAY KA! AKO NA LANG DITO!
MARAMI ANG MGA DIVERS NA 'YAN!
KAYA SILA NG UZI KO PAG NAGLOKO!
OKEY! BALIK NA AKO SA BAHAY!
NAKITA NI ARVIN SI JENNY...
JENNY...
ARVIN...
TO BE CONTINUED

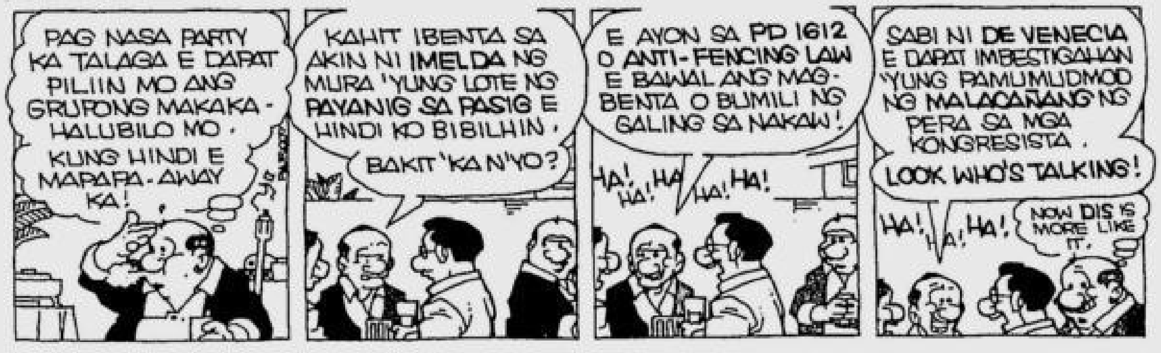
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


BAKIT NAMAN KASALANAN NG MEDIA ANG PAG-BABAGO?
KASI NGA
SIYA ANG NAGPAKITA NG BAGONG ANYO, ATTITUDE, KAUGALIAN AT LIFESTYLE
KASI...
GAYA-GAYA KA!
10/23/07

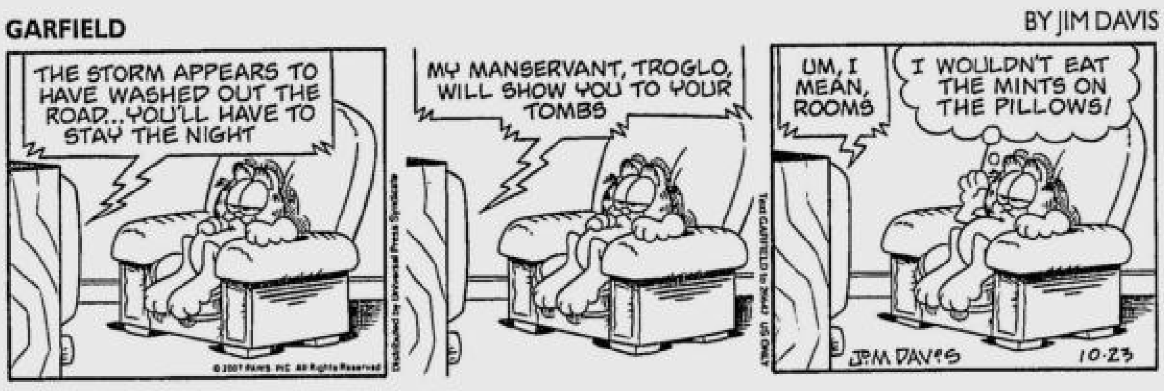
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


PAG NASA PARTY KA TALAGA E DAPAT PILIIN MO ANG GRUPONG MAKAKA-HALUBILO MO. KUNG HINDI E MAPAPA-AWAY KA!
KAHIT IBENTA SA AKIN NI IMELDA NG MURA 'YUNG LOTE NG PAYANIG SA PASIG E HINDI KO BIBILHIN.
BAKIT 'KA N'YO?
E AYON SA PD 1612 O ANTI-FENCING LAW E BAWAL ANG MAG-BENTA O BUMILI NG GALING SA NAKAW!
HA! HA! HA! HA! HA!
SABI NI DE VENECIA E DAPAT IMBESTIGAHAN 'YUNG PAMUMUDMOD NG MALACAÑANG NG PERA SA MGA KONGRESISTA.
LOOK WHO'S TALKING!
HA! HA! HA!
NOW DIS IS MORE LIKE IT.

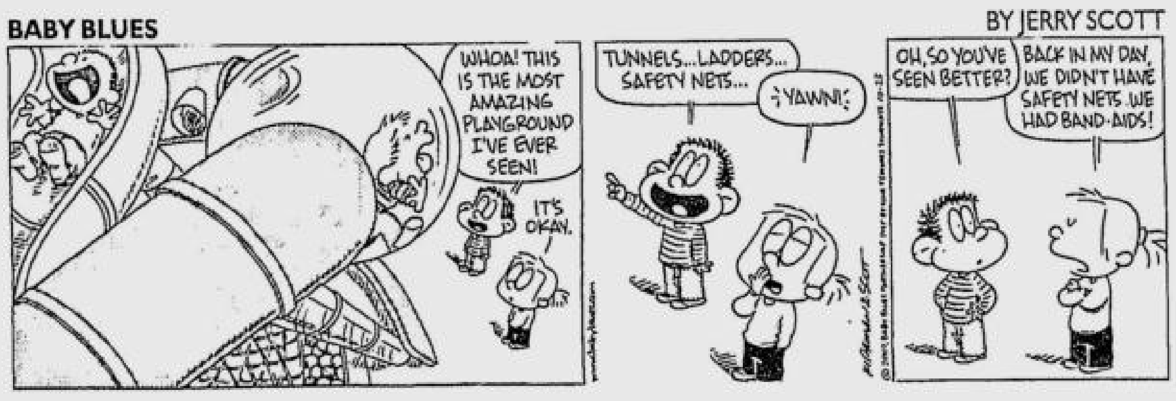
GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS


THE STORM APPEARS TO HAVE WASHED OUT THE ROAD...YOU'LL HAVE TO STAY THE NIGHT
MY MANSERVANT, TROGLO, WILL SHOW YOU TO YOUR TOMBS
UM, I MEAN, ROOMS
I WOULDN'T EAT THE MINTS ON THE PILLOWS!
JIM DAVIS
10-23

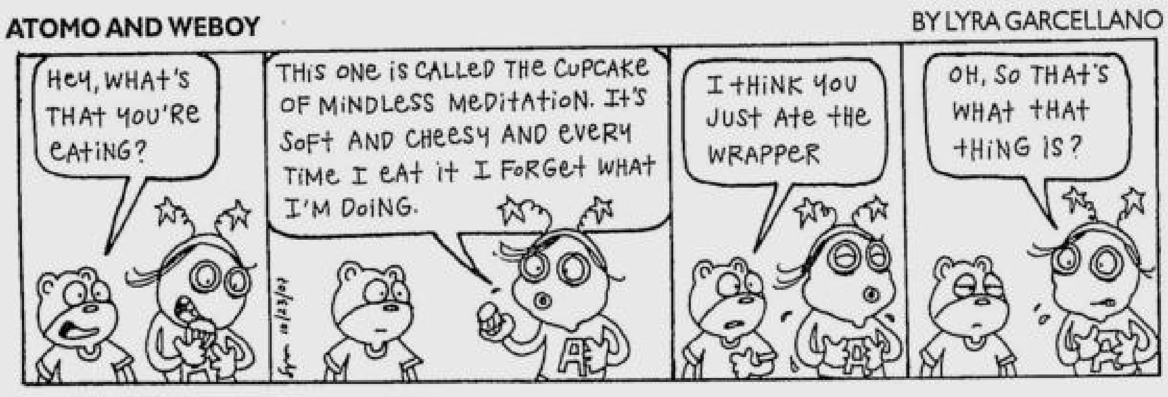
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


WHOA! THIS IS THE MOST AMAZING PLAYGROUND I'VE EVER SEEN!
IT'S OKAY.
TUNNELS...LADDERS... SAFETY NETS...
YAWN!
OH, SO YOU'VE SEEN BETTER?
BACK IN MY DAY, WE DIDN'T HAVE SAFETY NETS. WE HAD BAND-AIDS!

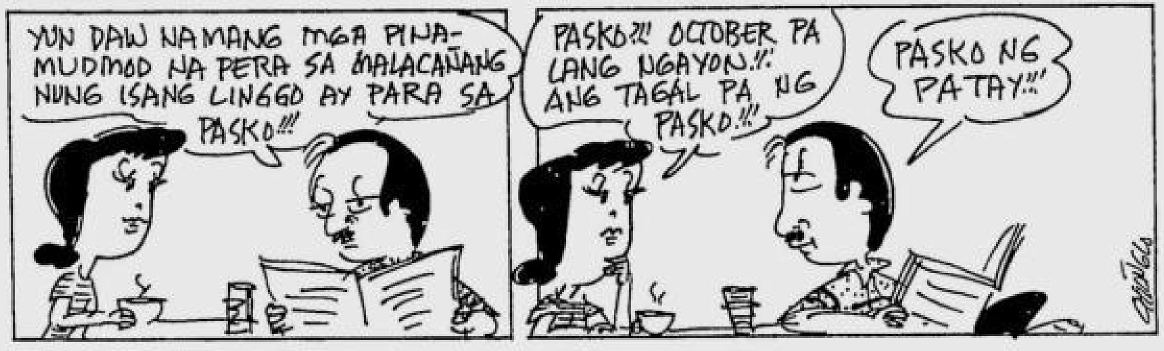
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


HEY, WHAT'S THAT YOU'RE EATING?
THIS ONE IS CALLED THE CUPCAKE OF MINDLESS MEDITATION. IT'S SOFT AND CHEESY AND EVERY TIME I EAT IT I FORGET WHAT I'M DOING.
I THINK YOU JUST ATE THE WRAPPER
OH, SO THAT'S WHAT THAT THING IS?

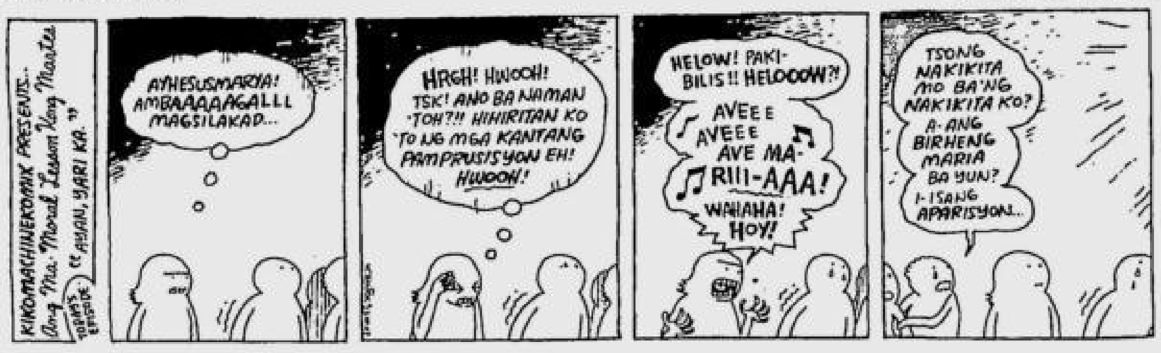
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


YUN DAW NAMANG MGA PINA-MUDMOD NA PERA SA MALACAÑANG NUNG ISANG LINGGO AY PARA SA PASKO!!!
PASKO?!! OCTOBER PA LANG NGAYON!! ANG TAGAL PA NG PASKO!!!
PASKO NG PATAY!!!

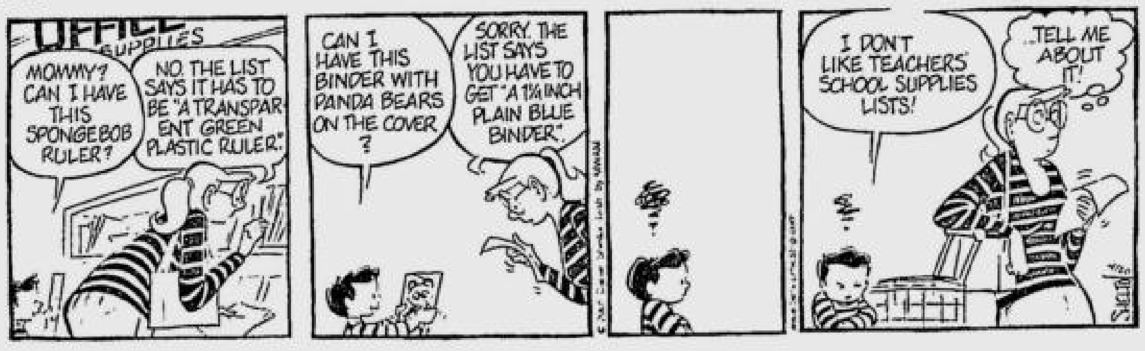
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


KIKOMACHINEKOMIX PRESENTS... Ang Ma' Moral Lesson Kong Master
TODAY'S EPISODE: "AYAN, YARI KA."
AYHESUSMARYA! AMBAAAAAGALLL MAGSILAKAD...
HRGH! HWOOH! TSK! ANO BA NAMAN 'TOH?!! HIHIRITAN KO 'TO NG MGA KANTANG PAMPRUSISYON EH! HWOOH!
HELOW! PAKI-BILIS!! HELOOOW?!
AVEEE AVEEE AVE MA-RIII-AAA!
WAHAHA! HOY!
TSONG NAKIKITA MO BA'NG NAKIKITA KO? A-ANG BIRHENG MARIA BA YUN? I-ISANG APARISYON...

BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


OFFICE SUPPLIES
MOMMY? CAN I HAVE THIS SPONGEBOB RULER?
NO. THE LIST SAYS IT HAS TO BE "A TRANSPARENT GREEN PLASTIC RULER."
CAN I HAVE THIS BINDER WITH PANDA BEARS ON THE COVER?
SORRY. THE LIST SAYS YOU HAVE TO GET "A 1¼ INCH PLAIN BLUE BINDER."
I DON'T LIKE TEACHERS' SCHOOL SUPPLIES LISTS!
TELL ME ABOUT IT!

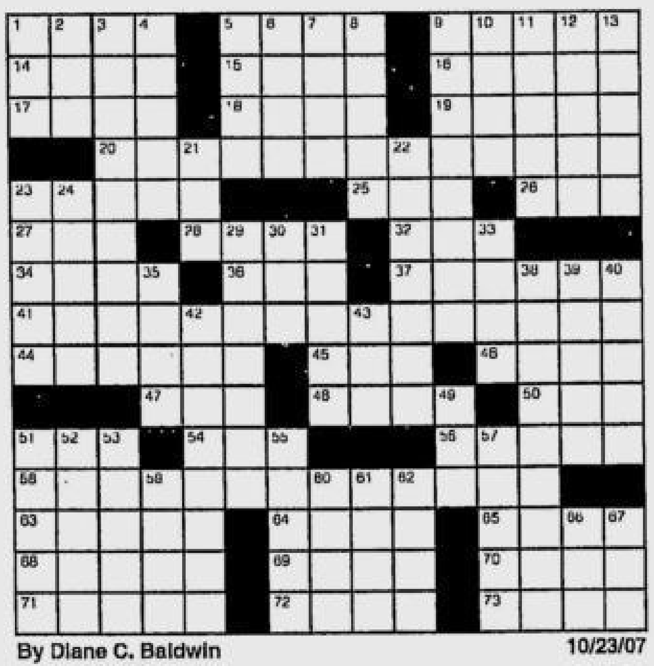
DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Positive factor
5 Deli orders
9 False witnesses
14 Blow off steam
15 Gator's cousin
16 Bert's Muppet pal
17 Luigi's bye-bye
18 India's continent
19 Bullwinkle, e.g.
20 Bit of a miracle
23 Say cheese!
25 Golf flagpole
26 Trauma centers, for short
27 __-o'-shanter
28 '60s hairdo
32 Pat daintily
34 Black cuckoos
36 Geologic period
37 Abhorrences
41 Who would have guessed?
44 Knocked senseless
45 Hydrogen's number
46 Land of shamrocks
47 Good buddy
48 Drug agent
50 Actor Beatty
51 Election winners
54 Donnybrook
56 Outmoded
58 Hardly!
63 Jalopy
64 Diva's moment
65 King David's predecessor
68 Fall bloom
69 Edges
70 Option word
71 Appears
72 Podiatrist's concern
73 Snow racer

DOWN

1 Letters for pipes
2 Hilo gift
3 Full agreement
4 Seat at the bar
5 Grifter's ploy
6 Heavenly bear
7 One way to cook eggs
8 Resell tickets
9 Citrus drink
10 Age after Bronze
11 Battery terminal
12 Stair piece
13 Crystal gazers
21 Kind of horse or cow
22 Grass __ (divorced man)
23 Follow menacingly
24 Frenzy
29 Cattle holding area
30 Gangster's gun
31 Burger topping
33 Ten-speed
35 Red flag command
38 Computer operation
39 Fundamental values
40 Stockholm man
42 Apprentices
43 Genetic stuff
49 Audit taker
51 Peruvian natives
52 Scandinavian
53 Hawaii or Alaska
55 Ship tie-up spot
57 Nincompoops
59 Account entry
60 Toledo's lake
61 Soil sweetener
62 Right on the map
66 Wear and tear
67 Spearheaded



By Diane C. Baldwin
Columbia, MD

10/23/07

Monday's Puzzle Solved

W	A	G		S	T	R	I	P		S	P	O	T	S
O	V	A		A	R	O	M	A		L	I	M	O	S
L	E	T		N	A	V	A	L		A	Q	A	B	A
F	R	E	D	D	I	E	M	E	R	C	U	R	Y	
			R	I	N	D				I	K	E		
A	Z	O	R	E	S		B	E	D	S		T	A	N
D	E	B	U	G		C	A	T	O		R	O	B	E
O	N	E	T	O	U	C	H	O	F	V	E	N	U	S
P	O	S	H		S	C	A	N		I	D	E	S	T
T	S	E		M	A	X	I		B	O	S	S	E	S
			Z	I	G			D	O	L	E			
	S	P	A	C	E	S	H	I	P	E	A	R	T	H
S	H	E	I	K		E	A	T	E	N		A	W	E
T	O	R	R	E		A	Z	T	E	C		J	I	F
P	O	K	E	Y		M	Y	O	P	E		A	N	T

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10/23/07

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're unusually versatile. Many of you have technical training in more than one area. This is because you get bored easily, and you seek excitement, stimulation and adventure. You're definitely passionate about everything you do. Your humor and personal charm make you a natural leader. You have a wonderful, social year to look forward to. All social occasions are blessed!

Birthdate of: Michael Crichton, writer; Ang Lee, director; Pele, soccer legend

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): The Sun and Mercury are lined up opposite your sign. Listen to what others have to say. Don't be quick to assume that they're opposing you. Perhaps their point of view is just different from yours.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Lots of silly, little errors have dogged your steps at work lately. Don't worry about this. Mercury is retrograde right now, and everyone is feeling this way (in one way or the other).

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You want to have fun today. You're in a playful frame of mind. Mysteries, games, sports and pleasurable activities will please you. Enjoy yourself!

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Because the Sun and Mercury are so closely aligned today, family discussions will be intense in a meaningful way. Whatever you focus on at home will have your full attention.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You're unusually convincing today. You're dramatic, enthusiastic and determined in all your speech patterns with others. This is an amazing combo. Who can resist you?

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Trust your moneymaking ideas today. Why not write them down? Opportunities from the past for old ideas might be your best shot.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Many of you are dealing with ex-partners and old friends now. This could be good or not so good, depending on how the relationship turned out.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Secrets and all kinds of unsolicited information might come to you today. Since this is the case, research into anything likely will reveal what you're looking for.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Talk to friends and acquaintances from the past. It's always an opportunity to embellish your reality (or to see it for what it is). Get together with old pals and trade lies.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): You might run into an authority figure from your past. If so, it might surprise you how easily the conversation flows. You have a lot to say and you're comfortable doing so.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Past opportunities related to travel or education might suddenly pop up again. If so, go along for the ride. You want something interesting to happen.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You're extremely convincing today in discussions about shared property, your partner's earnings, other people's wealth or how you might get funding or help from someone. That covers a lot!

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis SudoKu

By Dave Green

	7			9			6	
3	5						1	4
		8	1	5	6	2		
		4				7		
2		3				4		6
		9				3		
		5	3	1	8	6		
6	4						3	9
	3			4			5	

Difficulty Level ★★

10/23

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HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

3	2	1	4	8	7	6	9	5
9	5	4	1	6	2	8	3	7
8	7	6	5	9	3	2	4	1
1	9	3	7	5	8	4	2	6
2	8	7	3	4	6	1	5	9
6	4	5	2	1	9	3	7	8
5	3	2	6	7	1	9	8	4
7	1	8	9	3	4	5	6	2
4	6	9	8	2	5	7	1	3

Difficulty Level ★

10-22

INNER AWARENESS
Jaime Licauco

Women's intuition may be fact

THE POPULAR BELIEF that women are more intuitive than men, and children more intuitive than adults, seems to have some biological and anatomical basis.

In the human brain, there are two parts that appear to be connected to intuition and extra sensory perception or ESP. These are the pineal gland and the corpus callosum.

Medical science does not know much about the real function of the pineal gland except that it has something to do with light and darkness.

The pineal is located in the middle of the brain near the pituitary gland, which is considered the master gland in the entire endocrine system of the human body.

"The endocrine system," according to the Merck Manual of Medical Information, "consists of a group of organs (sometimes referred to as glands of internal secretion) whose main function is to produce and secrete hormones directly into the blood stream. Hormones serve as messengers to coordinate activities of various parts of the body."

Seat of telepathy

Now, from an esoteric and non-scientific point of view, the pineal gland is considered the seat of telepathy, intuition and clairvoyance.

To give you the exact location of the pineal gland, it has been said that, if you trace an imaginary vertical line beginning at the fontanel (*bumbunan*) on top of the head and a horizontal line entering the forehead between the eyebrows, where the two lines intersect is the location of the pineal gland.

And that is where the Third Eye is usually depicted, between the eyebrows.

Some psychics and clairvoyants have reported that whenever they transmit or receive a telepathic message they feel a tingling sensation at the center of their brain.

Although there is no scientific proof that the pineal gland is the seat of intuition, there is something curious about the differences in its size for men and women.

It is a scientific fact that the pineal gland of women is slightly larger than that of men, slightly larger in children than in adults.

Could this be the reason why women in general are more intuitive than men and children more intuitive than adults?

Evolution

And why is it that men's pineal gland is smaller than that of women? Maybe it has something to do with evolution.

Women used their intuition more than men did. And, through the hundreds of thousands of years, men's pineal gland has atrophied and shrunk.

As any macho Filipino man knows, any organ that is not used shrinks.

There is another possible biological reason why women are more intuitive than men. The human brain, specifically the neocortex, is divided into two hemispheres, the left and the right.

The corpus callosum, composed of some 300 million brain cells or neurons, act as a communication link between the two hemispheres.

When biologist Dr. Roger Sperry made an incision on the corpus callosum, he discovered the two specialized functions of the two halves of the brain that medical science did not know before. The left brain, he found out, was responsible for rational, verbal and analytical thinking; the right brain was responsible for non-verbal, holistic and intuitive thinking.

Science tells us that the corpus callosum of women is also slightly larger and matures faster than that of men. Maybe this explains why women can process information coming from both hemispheres of the brain faster than men. They are able to use their intuition better and can do so at an earlier age.

This seems to be a perfectly rational and neat theory on why women are more intuitive than men, and children more intuitive than adults.

If only we can prove it!

Note: Attend the next ESP & Intuition Development seminar 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Oct. 27-28, in Makati. For details, call tel. nos. 8107245 or 8926806. In Cagayan de Oro City, I will conduct a Stress Control, Self-healing and Goal Setting Seminar on Nov. 17; and Soulmates, Karma and Reincarnation Seminar on Nov. 18. For details, contact Jessica Tomacas at 0920-9235704.

Outstanding athletes honored

MILO PRESENTED RECENTLY Most Outstanding Athlete (MOA) awards to participants in the recent 2007 Milo Little Olympics NCR (National Capital Region).

Twenty-two athletes, 11 each from grade and high school divisions, received the award after displaying exceptional character during the event that featured athletics, badminton, chess, football, gymnastics, lawn tennis, sepak takraw, swimming, table tennis, taekwondo and volleyball.

Gracing the occasion were Nestlé assistant vice president and Milo consumer marketing manager Michelle Calo-Alvarillo, Nestlé AVP and Milo sports events executive Pat Goc-ong, Milo brand champion Robby Afzelius, Milo Little Olympics NCR organizer Giovanni Mamawal and meet director Dr. Robert Calo, parents of the participants and school officials.

Calo-Alvarillo said the awardees proved they had what it took to be true champions. She encouraged them to "practice and spread the Milo values of teamwork, discipline, hard work, respect and patience.

Goc-ong said this year's recipients of the Most Outstanding Athlete award "fought fairly, showed respect for their peers and officials, persevered and believed in themselves."

Among this year's awardees were Jill Boragay (athletics), Jericho Conducta (gymnastics) and Diego Montes (taekwondo).

A scholar at the Sisters of Mary Girl's Town in Cavite, Boragay only began playing athletics last year. She won three gold medals in the 1,000-, 800- and 500-meter races in this year's competition, even breaking the record in the 800-meter competition.

A greenhorn in the Little Olympics, she showed she was unfazed by any challenge.

Conducta of the Mandaluyong Elementary School won gold medals in floor exercise and vault and was the individual overall champion. He attributed his success to hard work. Conducta trained five times a week.

During the competition, he found time to mingle and make friends with other contestants, an experience that he thoroughly enjoyed.

Montes from Marist School is another passionate athlete. He started in taekwondo when he was only 4 years old.

Showing great promise, his parents Rolen and Shiela Montes allowed him to focus on taekwondo. The parents said the Little Olympics helped their son develop tremendously.

Rolen said, the competition exposed kids to all sorts of challenges that taught them discipline and respect.

Coach Brenda Abelgos of Sisters of Mary Girls Town said the Little Olympics gave kids the inspiration they needed in life.

Children who were into sports were more determined, disciplined and learned character-forming values that would help them cope with life's challenges, she said.

SISTER of Mary principal Sister Theresita Sumalabe, Girls Town coach Brenda Abelgos and promising sprinter Jill Boragay

LITTLE
OLYM

MILO Little Olympics grade school gymnastics MOA Jericho Conducta and mom Gina

Diego Montes and parents Shiela and Rolen

LITTLE Olympics NCR organizer Jovy Mamawal, and Milo's Michelle Calo-Alvarillo, Pat-Goc-ong and Robbie Afzelius

Mother's 'breast friend' in a tea bag

BREASTMILK HAS BEEN PROVEN IN many studies as the best first food for infants.

But some women find it difficult to produce enough milk for their babies.

Imee Garcia, a mother of one and a staunch breastfeeding advocate, suggests a convenient way for mothers to ensure sufficient milk for their infants.

Garcia said she was having trouble breastfeeding her child. Her mother and other older relatives suggested boiling *malunggay* and taking it as soup.

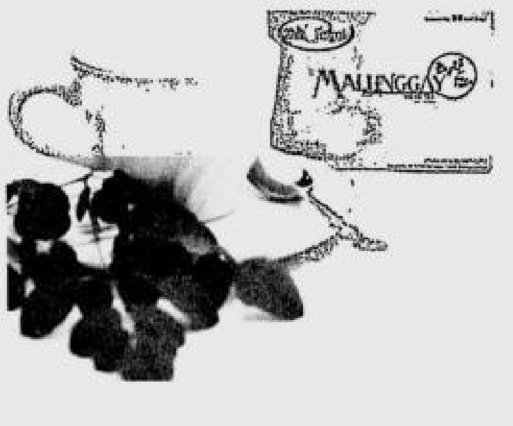
Generations of breastfeeding Filipino women had relied on *malunggay*, with its high calcium content, to help them produce sufficient milk.

Dr. Lydia M. Marero of the Food and Nutrition Research Institute (FNRI), in her article "Malunggay is Miracle Vegetable" said, "*Malunggay* is one of the world's most useful plants. It is used as food, effective flocculant or water treatment, antibiotic, source of oil, and coagulant for turbid waters."

Each ounce of *malunggay* contains seven times the Vitamin C in oranges, four times the Vitamin A in carrots, three times the iron in spinach, four times as much calcium from milk and three times the potassium in bananas.

It is called mother's best friend and miracle vegetable by many who know its many beneficial uses.

Traditionally in the Philippines, lactating mothers are advised to eat *malunggay*, usually added to dishes like chicken *tinola*, *mongo* or *halaan* (clam) soup.



But this kind of preparation does not allow nutrients in *malunggay* to be utilized fully.

She said there was a better, more convenient and more pleasant way to take *malunggay* every day. She and her mother put *malunggay* in tea bags.

Sun Angel Malunggay Herbal Tea is an instant but effective way to enjoy all the beneficial properties of *malunggay*.

The tea, which has already been given the seal of the Bureau of Food and Drug (BFAD), can be taken anytime and anywhere.

Garcia said, with *malunggay* now in tea bags, she hoped more women would be encouraged to breastfeed.

Sun Angel Malunggay Herb Tea (tels. 7763895 or 787047; http://malunggayherbtea.multiply.com; e-mail malunggayherbtea@gmail.com) is available in Mercury Drug Stores.

A different kind of health club

THE DOÑA ELENA CUISINERA CLUB (DECC) is a group of concerned mothers, health practitioners and food enthusiasts who are waging a war against the unhealthy eating lifestyle of Filipinos.

"The statistics are overwhelming," asserts Professor Luchie Callanta, DECC's official Nutritionist. "We have 10 million Filipinos whose diet is almost entirely comprised of junk food. To make things worse, 41% of our population consumes no fruits and vegetables at all."

These unhealthy eating habits have had a profound effect particularly on Filipino children. According to DOH data, obesity rates among children aged 0-5 have risen by as much as 400 percent in the last decade. Obesity increases the risk for lifestyle diseases such as hypertension, cancer and diabetes.

Callanta emphasizes that people have a choice, and if they opt to champion their family's health, the Doña Elena Cuisinera Club is there to support them in their cause.

Born as a creative response against the perils of unhealthy living, the Doña Elena Cuisinera Club wants to turn Filipinos into people who champion healthy eating without compromising the taste and quality of the food they prepare.

Projects of the Doña Elena Cuisinera Club include the release of "21 Ways to a Healthier Life" book, which contains tips to a healthier lifestyle as well as Filipino recipes given a healthier twist. The book is a collaboration between chef Golda Laurel-Liamzon and nutritionist Luchie Callanta of the University of the Philippines.

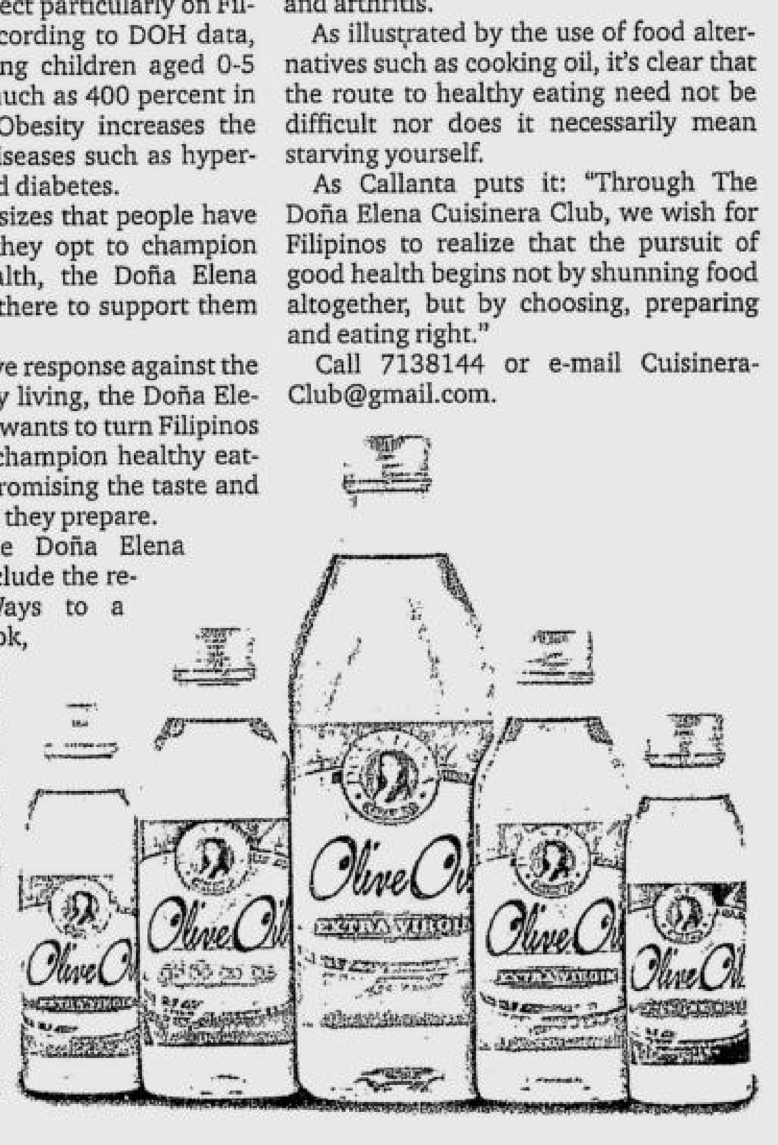
In addition, the DECC also plans to hold monthly healthy cooking classes for Cuisineras from all around Metro Manila. One of its top priorities is substituting the use of olive oil for regular cooking oils in preparing everyday dishes. The club is promoting the use of olive oil as one of the easiest yet most effective means by which Filipinos can achieve a healthier lifestyle.

Besides lowering LDL (bad) cholesterol levels, olive oil also reduces the risk of heart attack, inhibits cancer, stabilizes blood sugar levels and controls asthma and arthritis.

As illustrated by the use of food alternatives such as cooking oil, it's clear that the route to healthy eating need not be difficult nor does it necessarily mean starving yourself.

As Callanta puts it: "Through The Doña Elena Cuisinera Club, we wish for Filipinos to realize that the pursuit of good health begins not by shunning food altogether, but by choosing, preparing and eating right."

Call 7138144 or e-mail Cuisinera-Club@gmail.com.



10 ways to lose *bilbil*

WHEN IT COMES TO FAT, THE most common problem faced by both women and men is usually the midsection.

The. waistline expands, an unattractive evidence of a losing battle with weight.

A new orange-flavored health drink is now in the market to help women trim that waistline without worrying about side effects.

Hydrotrim is a formulation from the United States using hydroxycitric acid to help boost the body's metabolism.

At the same time, it neutralizes cravings for carbohydrates and sweets, allowing a person to burn fat faster simply by drinking it before meals.

A glass of Hydrotrim should be complemented with a few diet techniques to allow faster weight loss while ensuring health and wellness.

Other weight loss tips are:

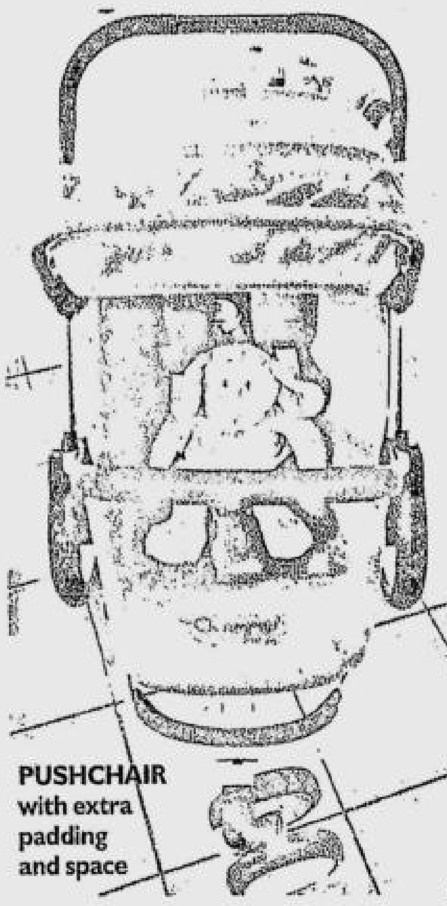
- Read the labels to cut back on fat, sugar and carbohydrates. Avoid products with high amounts of all three.
- Cleanse with fiber and anti-oxidants. Fiber also helps absorb the fat in the body. Citrus fruits have anti-oxidants to combat disease-causing organisms.
- Control the portions. A neat trick is to switch from regular sized plates to smaller ones.
- Boost your metabolism. Age, stress and unhealthy lifestyles can slow metabolism. Hydrotrim can help speed up the burning of fatty deposits and reduce *bilbil*.
- Say no to sweets. Those who have a "sweet tooth" can take a glass of Hydrotrim before meals to help control their craving.
- Unload carbohydrates. The hydroxycitric acid in hydrotrim helps block craving receptors in the body.
- Hydrate away fats. Drinking lots of water is one of the best ways to slim down. When mixed with water, Hydrotrim can speed up metabolism.
- Do sit-ups when you wake up. Try to perform about 15 sit-ups before showering or taking a bath.
- Exercise at your desk. Perform mild crunches while seated. Tense and relax stomach muscles for at least 10 minutes every three hours.
- Enjoy a stretch. A good stretch relieves stress, conditions the muscles and signals the body to start burning fat to energize the body.

STAY fit with Hydrotrim.

Top UK retail chain cares for both moms and babes

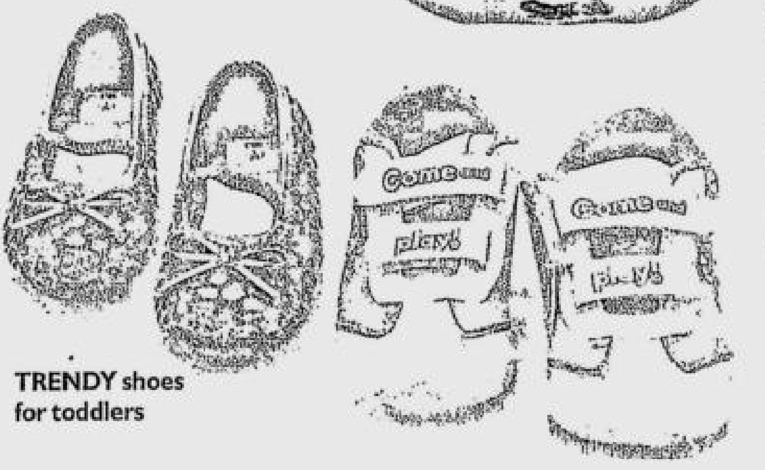
Mothercare offers premium items that are totally different from the ones currently in the market

Text by Vangie Baga-Reyes
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan



PUSHCHAIR with extra padding and space

NURSING pillows for breastfeeding moms



TRENDY shoes for toddlers

MOTHERCARE, A TOP United Kingdom retail chain for mothers and toddlers, has just opened two outlets in Metro Manila.

The shop carries a wide range of products, from maternity clothes and nursing equipment to cribs and strollers, as well as toys, accessories, feeding utensils and bedding.

"Mothercare is a global brand dedicated to meet the needs of all mothers and children," says Diahann Mella, president of Saiglobal, Mothercare's franchisee in the Philippines.

Mella assures clients that all Mothercare products have passed the British Safety Standards. Each item is tested for safety before the store carries it.

The brand, which has been around for more than 40 years, has 241 stores in the United Kingdom and 281 outlets around the world.

Quality merchandise

Mothers and moms-to-be will enjoy the clean, bright and neatly-zoned shop.

The store makes it easy for pregnant women to remain stylish. Trousers and skirts are designed to accommodate an expanding belly from early to full-term pregnancy. They do not only flatter the wearer but also keep her comfortable.

The line includes tunics that adapt to a women's new shape, tops and dresses that are wrap-style, side-ruched empire-line or simply cut.

Colorful swimwear for pregnant women and a wide selection of nursing bras are also available.

"Mothercare understands how important it is to wear a well-fitting maternity bra during and after pregnancy," Mella says. "The company works directly with midwives and pregnant women in designing new bras."

Mothercare stores' employees are specially trained to help clients throughout their pregnancy. They can assess the changing shapes and sizes to ensure women get perfectly fitting bras to meet their bodies' needs at every stage of the pregnancy.

TELEVISION host Christine Bersola-Babao and daughter Antonia check out some electronic toys.

"(A woman's) body is undergoing dramatic changes so it's crucial to be re-measured every six to eight weeks, or whenever the bra feels uncomfortable," Mella says.

Support bras are designed with supportive fabric, thicker straps, extra-soft elastic, broader sides and back and a deeper center front.

Nursing bras, essential for breastfeeding moms, consist of drop-cups, extra-soft elastic, easier fastening, and wider sides, back and straps.

Mothercare also has maternity support cushions and pillows for the abdomen, breastfeeding pillows, disposable breast pads, maternity towels and bed mats, among other things.

One side of the shop showcases a gorgeous range of baby clothes and accessories, like sleepsuits. wrap-over vests, cardigans, mittens, socks, blankets or shawls and bibs in soft pinks, blues and neutrals.

For children up to eight years old, there is an impressive collection of bright-colored tees, halter dresses, raglan shirts with printed patches, and other chic casuals.

Boys and girls fashion also includes embroidered trousers, jackets, leggings in plain or printed fabric, girls' ballet tops, ripped belted turned-up jeans and hooded zip-through tops.

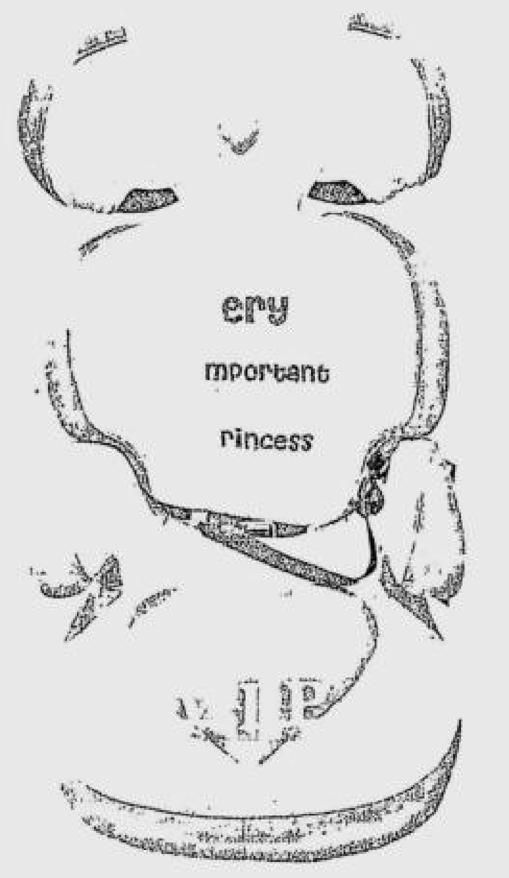
A huge shoe rack displays different sizes and kinds of shoes for boys and girls and babies.

Nursery and travel needs

Mothercare is recognized for its nursery equipment. It has Moses baskets, cribs, cots, cot beds and travel cots. The sturdy cribs come in dark wood or white wash.

There are also anti-fungus- and anti-bacteria-treated mattresses and beddings.

Other baby essentials available include feeding bottles, bottle sterilizers, bottle and food coolers, utensils, baby's toiletries and potties.



STYLISH car seat with side-impact protection and head cushion

Also on display is an assortment of durable high chairs, strollers/pushchairs, and car seats.

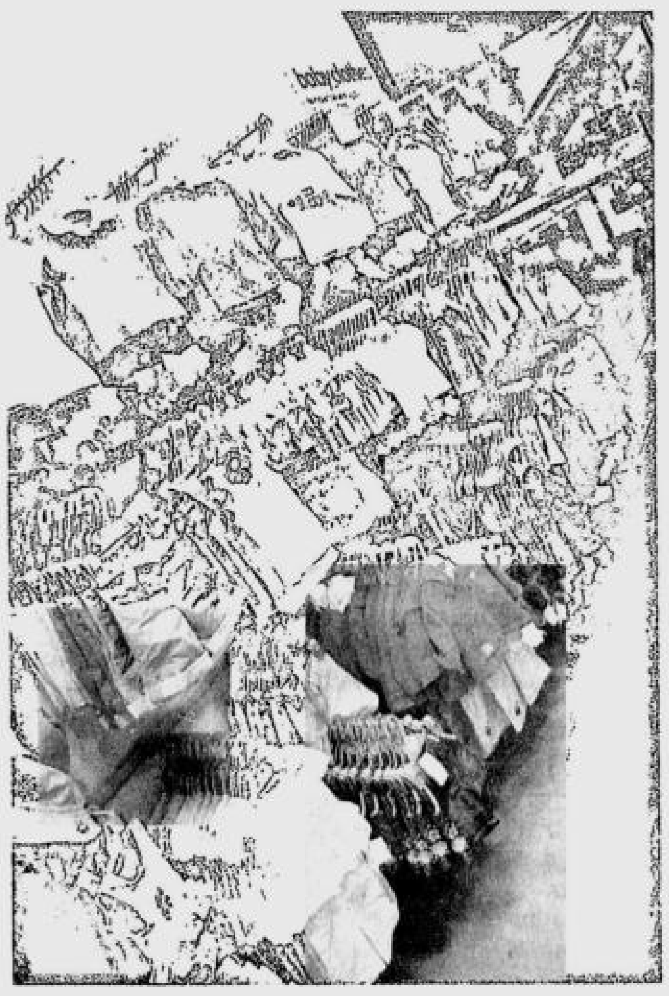
Lightweight pushchairs are ideal for use in public transport or travel, while three-wheeler strollers are perfect for when parents want to take their baby for a walk.

Mothercare staff will help parents install correctly to their vehicles infant carrier car seats.

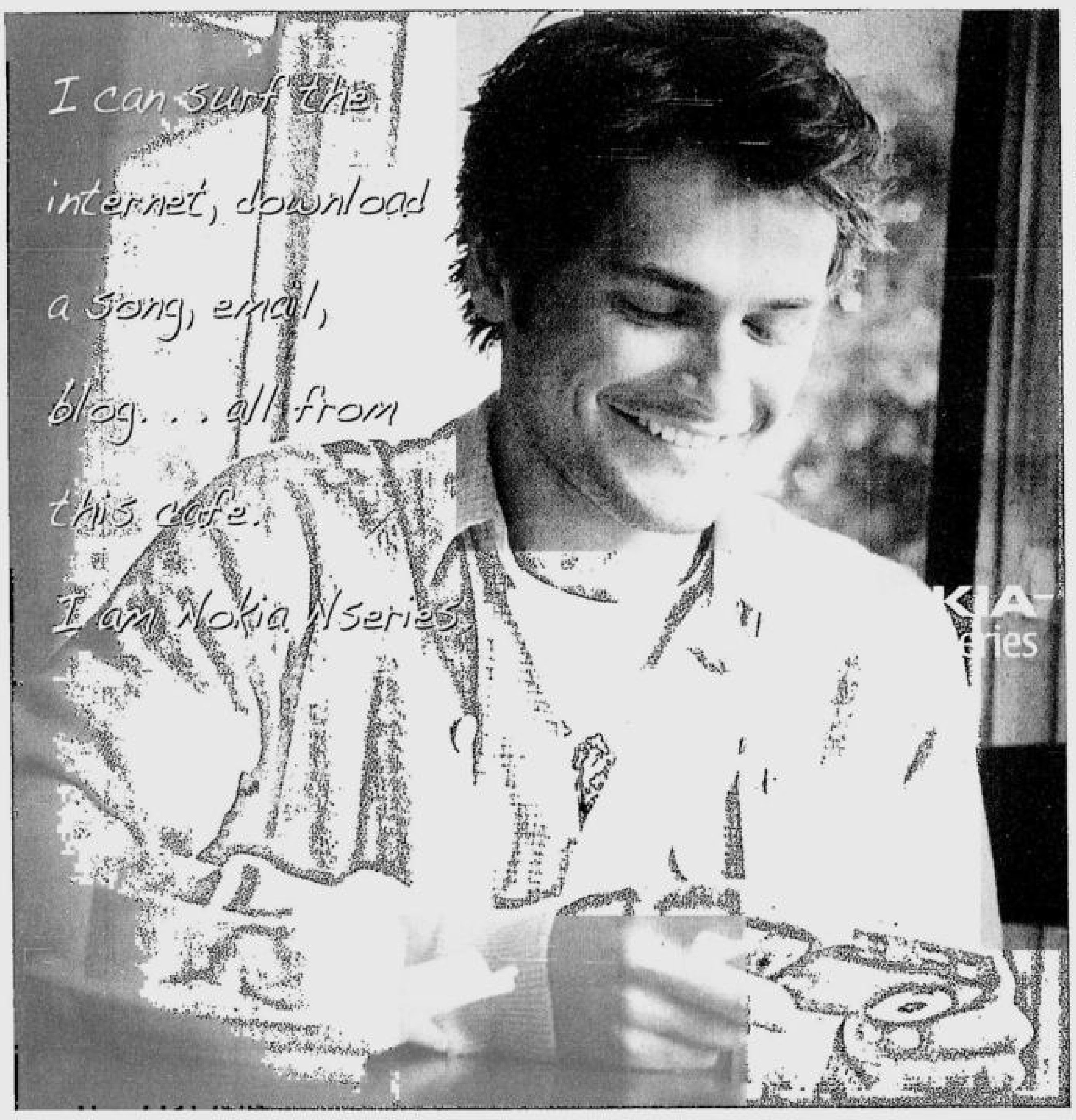
"We are happy to help check that the seat fits a child properly in a car," Mella says. "In choosing the right car seat, it's the weight not the age that matters. If a child is above or below the specified weight range for the car seat, [he/she may not get adequate protection] in the event of an accident."

Mothercare stores are located on the third floor of Edsa Shangri-La Mall in Mandaluyong City and the TriNoma Mall on North Avenue, Q.C.

STURDY, whitewash crib with cozy beddings and colorful playmat



CLOTHES for boys and girls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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Emmie G. Velarde

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Celebs recount scariest experiences

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

SINCE HALLOWEEN IS JUST around the corner, I asked some celebs about their most frightening experience ever.

Que horror! May the ghosts of your past stop haunting you and the monsters in your head stop taunting you.

* * *

Dingdong Dantes: "When I was moving to my new home, I had a box that had paintings in it. When it was time to take the box out of the old house, the contents fell down the stairs and I saw the woman in the painting literally coming out of the frame and swiftly passing through my vision. I ran out and locked the gates. Those items were never recovered."

* * *

Gina Alajar: "The 1994 earthquake in LA scared me the most. The place where we were staying was the epicenter. I thought it was the end of the world already!"

* * *

Ogie Alcasid: "In high school, I once stayed overnight on campus for a leadership training. We had a bonfire and there was an old woman in the middle of the football field, her gray hair glowing in the dark. It was about 200 meters away, and we all got spooked. But we went closer and found it was a security guard with a towel on his head. We all ended up laughing!"

* * *

Tintin Bersola-Babao: "I was 8 when we lived in a house on a haunted property. My sis and I saw a shadow pass outside our window. We were told that someone had died there. Creepy— it was Nov. 1 then!"

* * *

Michael V: "I was about 15. We were looking for a pair of scissors but couldn't find one. I woke up at 3 a.m. and the scissors were in my hands."

* * *

Miriam Quiambao: "The hotel where I was staying in Bicol caught fire. The whole room and corridor were up in smoke. At first I couldn't find my dad. Then I saw him climbing out of the balcony, using sheets. He jumped at the mezzanine level and broke his back."

* * *

Nyoy Volante: "I was driving on Ayala by myself and made a U-turn on one of the side streets. Naturally, I glanced at the rear view mirror to watch for cars behind me. As I did, I saw a man in the back seat, looking at the back of my head. I tried to ignore him, and just completed my U-turn. When I looked again, he was gone."

Oh my Josh!

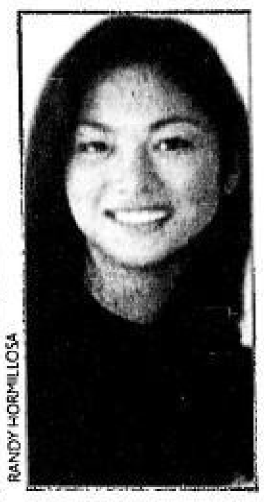
Profuse thanks to three wonderful people—**Francis Lumen**, MTV's **Ronald Esguerra** and **Bambi** for giving me the rare chance of meeting **Josh Groban**. It's one of the few times I got starstruck.

Unlike most foreign celebs, Josh was so accommodating. He gamely posed for pics way past midnight even if he was tired from his sold-out concert and he had to catch an early flight the next day.

After each shot, he said "thank you" as if it was he who had asked for the photo op. Little do people know that he is helping so many foundations for worthwhile causes. Oh my Josh! What

CELEBS/ E2

MICHAEL V

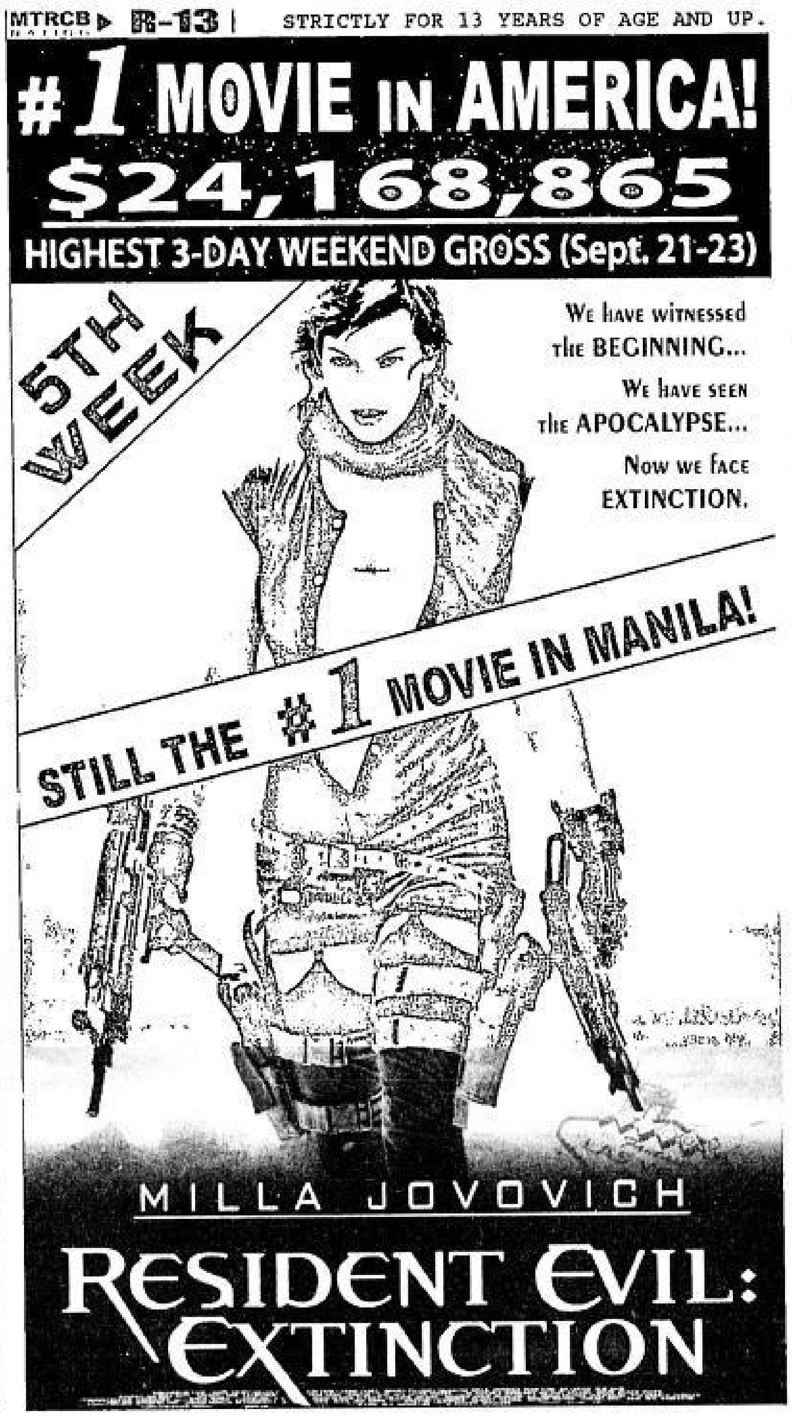


RANDY HORMILLOSA

MIRIAM Quiambao

DINGDONG Dantes

MTRCB RATING ▶ G GENERAL PATRONAGE
ALL AGES ADMITTED
DAPAT MAG-ENJOY.
DAPAT KALIMUTAN ANG PROBLEMA.
DAPAT MONG PANOORIN.
KAHIT APAT NA BESES AY SULIT PA RIN!
Rufa Mae Quinto
Eugene Domingo
Pokwang
Candy Pangilinan
Apat Dapat
DAPAT APAT
FRIENDS 4 LYF AND DEATH
Directed by WENN V. DERAMAS
NO. 1 NA SA PATAWA, NO. 1 PA SA TAKILYA!
VIVA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MR.WOODCOCK PG13 1:40,3:50,6:00,8:10	NO RESERVATIONS G 12:30,2:50,5:10, 7:30,9:50	THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING G 1:10,3:30,5:50, 8:10,10:30

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CINEMA 2 HIGHLANDER 12:05 , 2:40 , 5:15 7:50 , 10:25 R-13

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CINEMA 3 KNOCKED UP 11:15 , 1:35 , 3:50 6:05 , 8:20 , 10:35 R18
CINEMA 4 THE SEEKER 10:30 ,12:50 , 3:10 5:30 ,7:50 , 10:10 GP
CINEMA 5 STARDUST 11:00 , 1:55 , 4:50 7:45 , 10:35 GP

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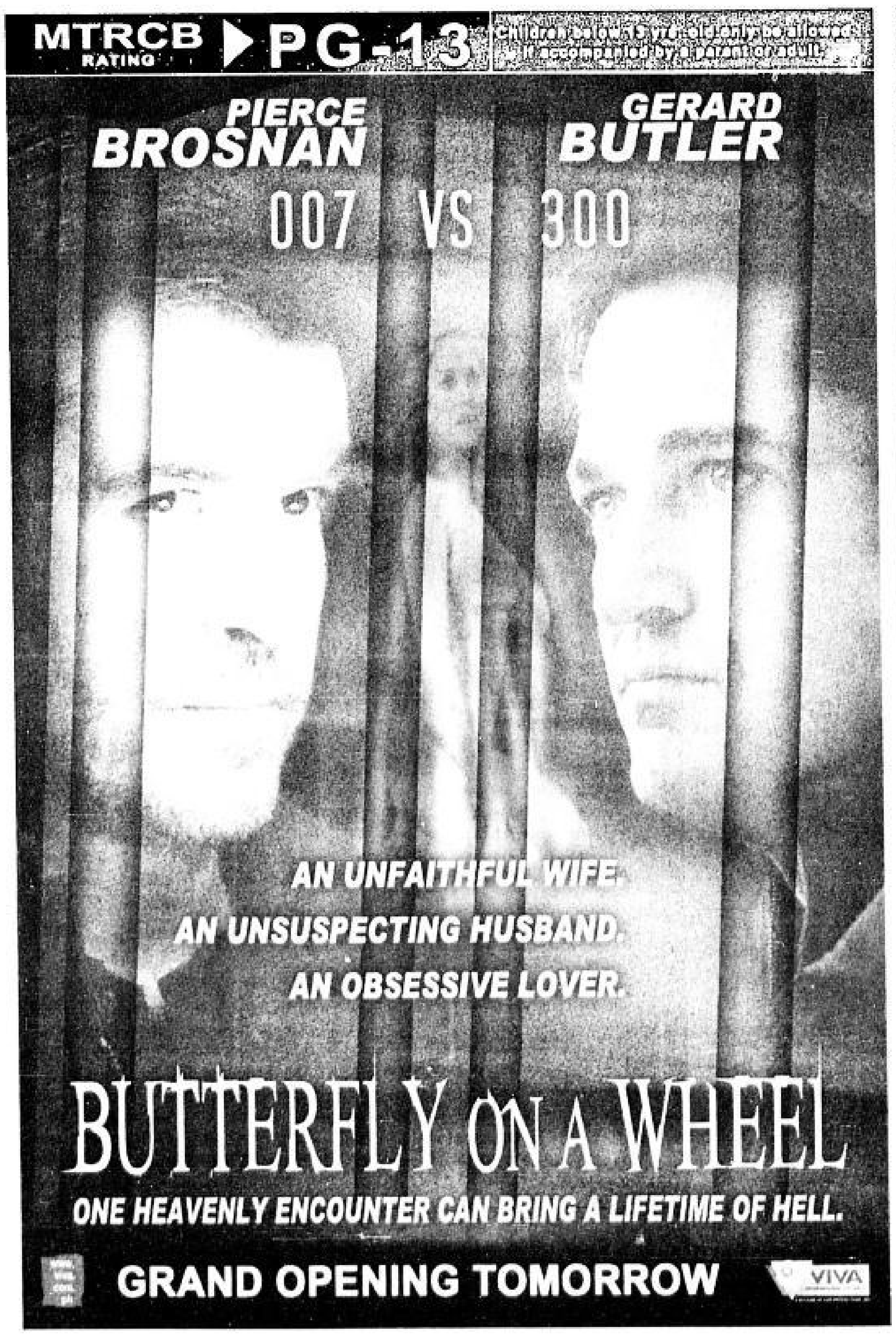
MUSIC MUSEUM

October 18 & 19 , 2007	Jericho Rosales	8:00 PM
October 25 , 2007	Ogie Alcasid	8:00 PM
October 27 , 2007	Jonathan Badon	8:00 PM

T·E·A·T·I·N·O
PROMENADE GREENHILLS

Oct. 17 , 24 & 31	Cerrudo Classico	8:00 PM
October 28, 2007	John Lesaca	8:00 PM

FOR INQUIRIES PLS. CALL 722-4532 LOC 116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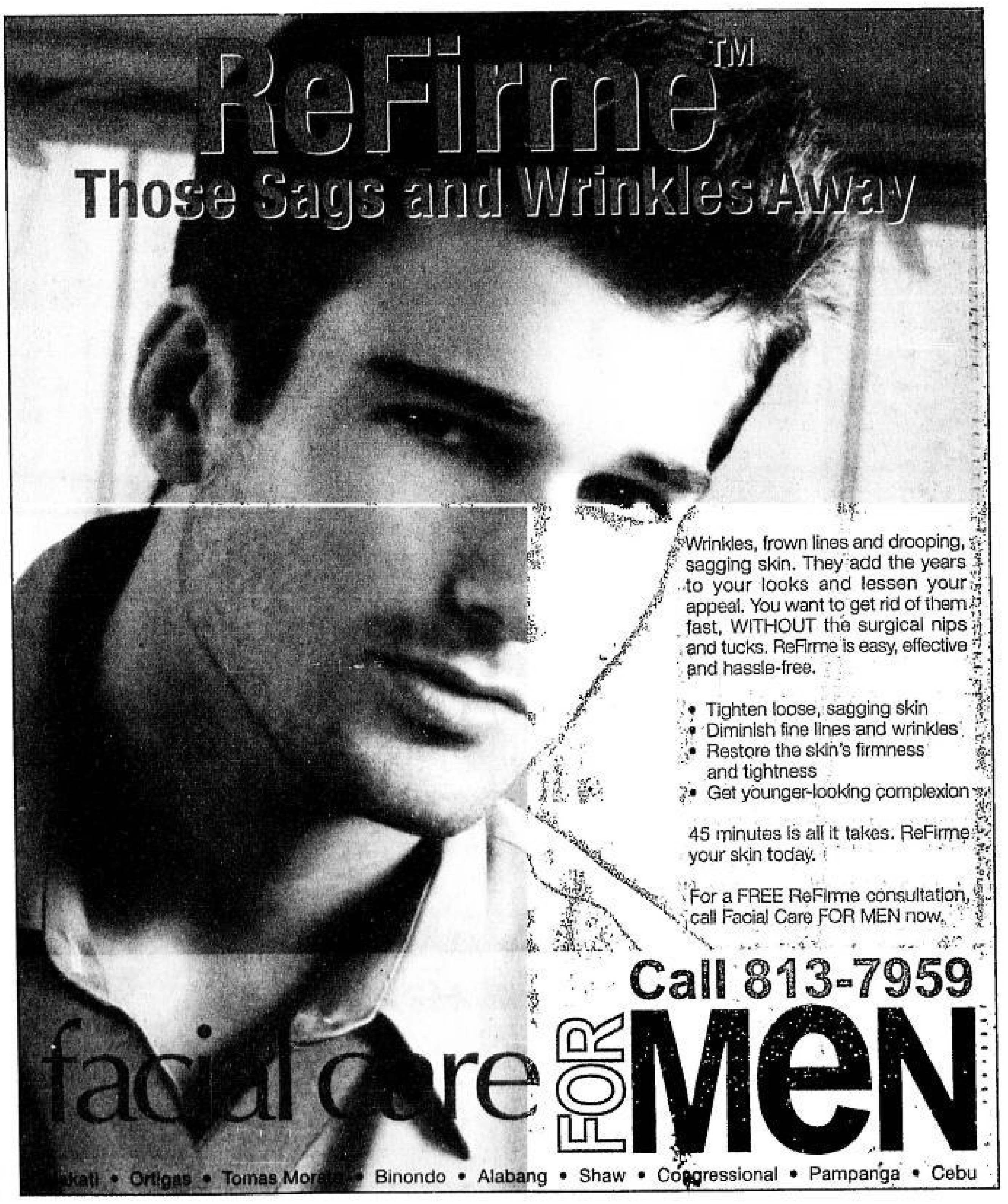
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Celebs recount…

STARSTRUCK. The columnist poses with Josh Groban

From page E1

an angel on and off stage!

Debut album

Anak, The Band lead by music legend **Ka Freddie's** son **Jeriko Aguilar**, has launched its sensational debut album "Ang Pagsilang" (released by FAME-Freddie Aguilar Music Enterprises and distributed by Ivory records). The first single, "Ang Tanong," is bound to be a hit.

Catch the band's impassioned gigs at LA Café Malate and at the Hobbit House on Oct. 30. Jeriko is out to prove what being Freddie Aguilar's "anak" is all about.

New show

"Tablescapes—Life on a Plate," Mondays 11 p.m. on Studio 23, is the newest cooking show with a twist because it is also a travel show that will take you to the unexplored provinces of the Philippines and give you a sampling of their unique delicacies.

Hosted by **Angel Aquino** and Chef **Bruce Lim**, it will take you on a bon voyage and give you bon appetit!

* * *

E-mail wateringholeshangrila@yahoo.com.

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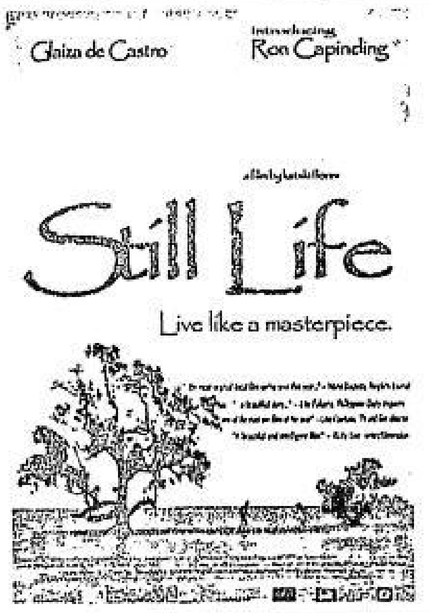

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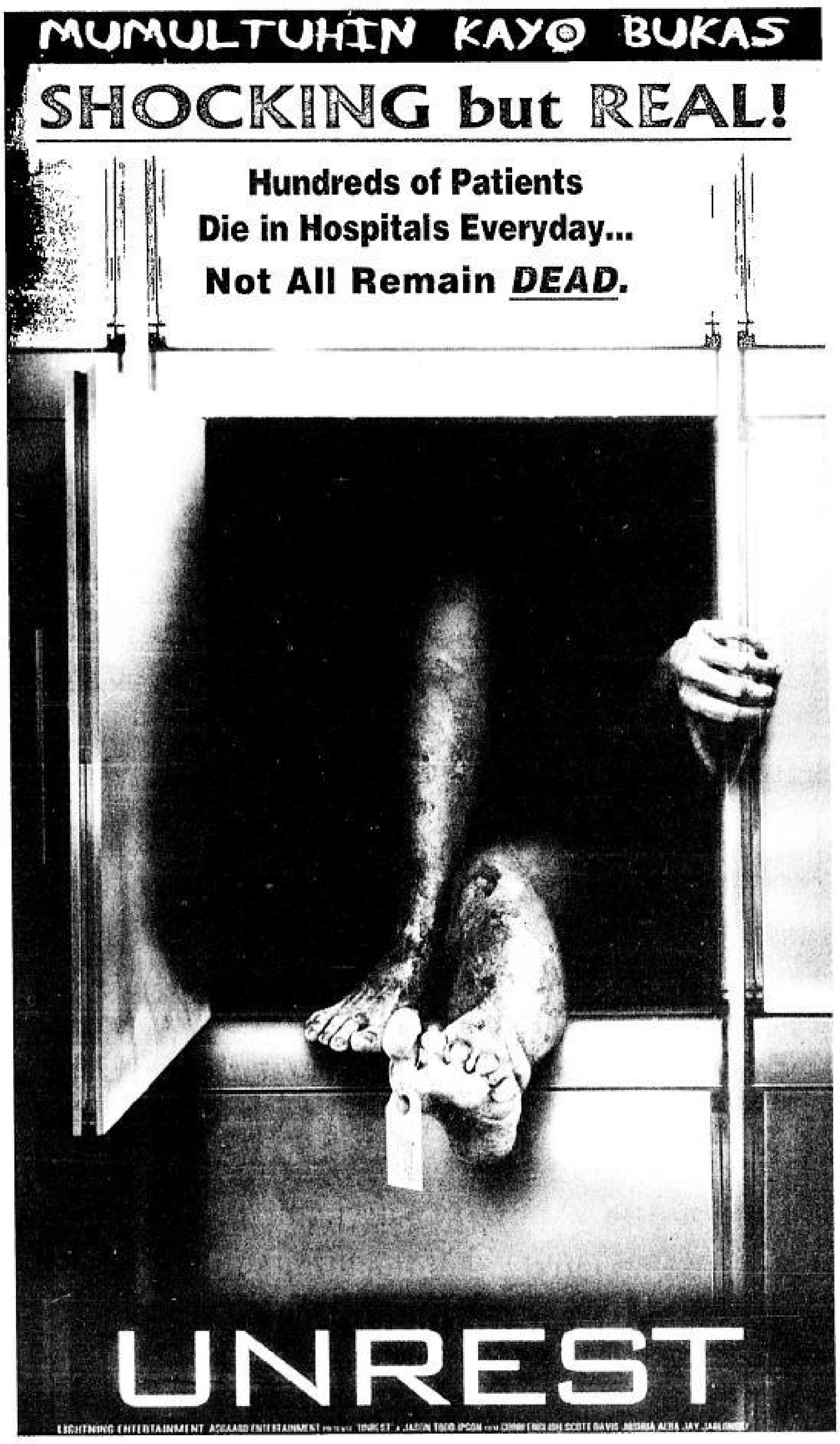

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Cinema	Screen	Film
GLORIETTA 1	1	HIGHLANDER: THE SOURCE
	2	THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
	3	KNOCKED UP
	4	APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT
GLORIETTA 4	1	KNOCKED UP
	2	MR. WOODCOCK
	3 THX	THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING GUARANTEED SEATS
	4	I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
	5	RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION
	6	STARDUST
	7	PERFUME: THE STORY OF A MURDERER
GREENBELT 1	1	STARDUST
	2	THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
GREENBELT 3	1 THX	THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING GUARANTEED SEATS
	2 THX	STARDUST GUARANTEED SEATS
	3	PERFUME: THE STORY OF A MURDERER GUARANTEED SEATS
	4	MR. WOODCOCK GUARANTEED SEATS
	5	KNOCKED UP GUARANTEED SEATS
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX	STARDUST
	2	THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
	3	KNOCKED UP
	4	MR. WOODCOCK
	5	APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT
AYALA CENTER CEBU	1	THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
	2	KNOCKED UP
	3	STARDUST
	4	I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
MARKET! MARKET!	1	APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT
	2	STARDUST
	3	KNOCKED UP
	4	HIGHLANDER: THE SOURCE
	5	THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
TRINOMA	1	APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT
	2	HIGHLANDER / RESIDENT EVIL 3
	3	STARDUST GUARANTEED SEATS
	4	MR. WOODCOCK GUARANTEED SEATS
	5	THE 11TH HOUR
	6	KNOCKED UP
	7 THX	THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING GUARANTEED SEATS

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Market! Market! - 886 7519
TriNoma - 901 3000

Ayala Malls

Mall	Event
glorietta	Urban Beats: Superbands at Glorietta featuring Kastigo and Kjwa October 24; 6pm to 7;30pm; Glorietta Activity Center
GREENBELT	Trick or Treat at Greenbelt 3 Park October 25 to 28 and 31
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	Automatic Center October 15 to 26; Activity Center
AYALA CENTER CEBU	Kiddo Halloween Event October 27; Activity Center and On Stage (Cinema 1)
MARKET! MARKET!	Dancing Stage Supernova Challenge 2007 Grand Finals October 26; Activity Center
Greenbelt Onstage	Repertory Philippines presents Disney's CINDERELLA Kids August - December 2007 For inquiries, pls. call 887-0710 or visit www.repertory-philippines.com
Ayala MUSEUM	HYBRIDITY: Mark Lewis Higgins September 18 to October 28, 2007; Ground Floor For more info, pls: call 757-7117 to 21 loc. 14 or email museum_inquiry@ayalamuseum.org
Tri Noma	Sesame Street Party October 28; Activity Center

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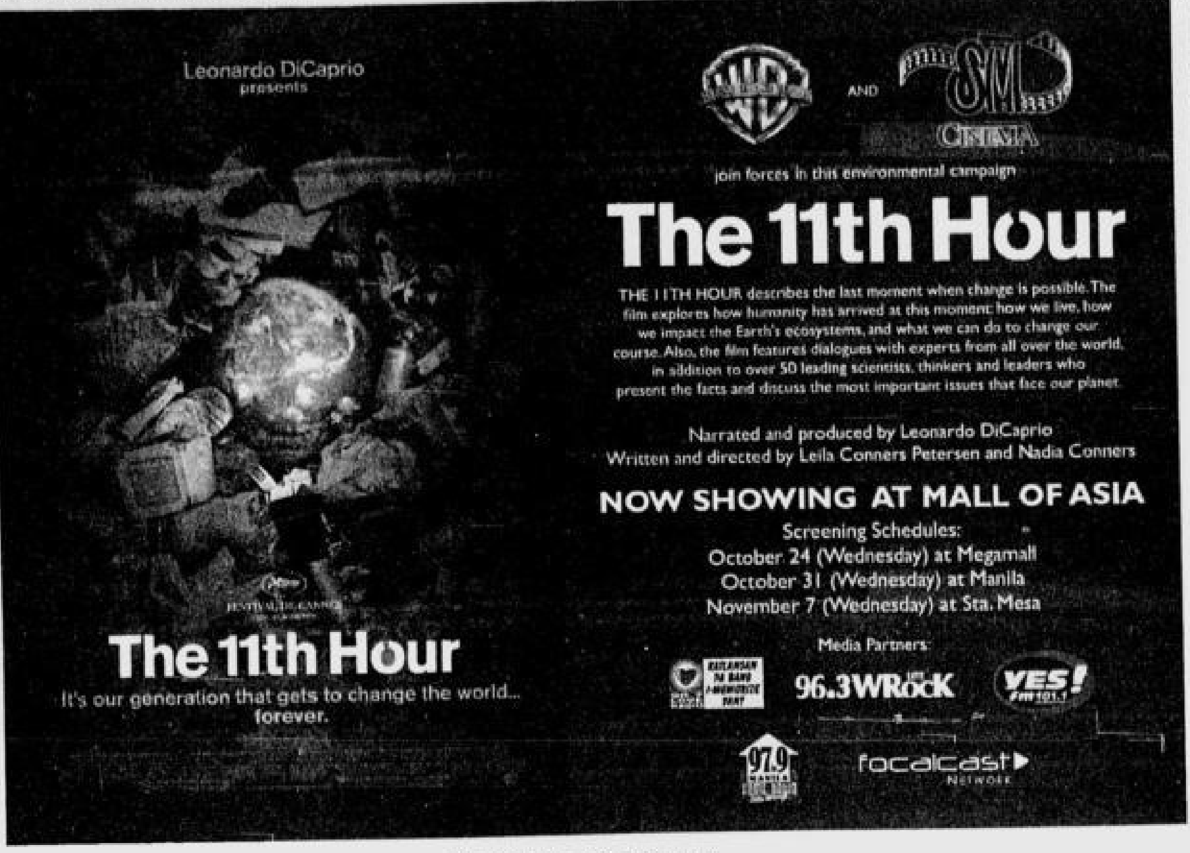

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Written and directed by Leila Conners Petersen and Nadia Conners

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2 HIGHLANDER V
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4 RESIDENT EVIL 3
5 MR. WOODCOCK
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1 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
2 RESIDENT EVIL 3
3 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
4 MR. WOODCOCK
5 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
6 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
7 STARDUST
8 MR. WOODCOCK
9 HIGHLANDER V
10 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
11 NO RESERVATIONS
12 KUNG FU FIGHTER

SM MEGACINEMA 633-1901
1 MR. WOODCOCK
2 HIGHLANDER V
3 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
4 RESIDENT EVIL 3
5 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
6 STARDUST
7 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
8 KUNG FU FIGHTER
9 NO RESERVATIONS
10 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
11 RETRIBUTION
12 ROGUE ASSASSIN

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 935-0749
1 STARDUST
2 RETRIBUTION
3 NO RESERVATIONS
4 ROGUE ASSASSIN
5 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
6 HIGHLANDER V
7 RESIDENT EVIL
8 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
9 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
10 KUNG FU FIGHTER
11 WEDDING DAZE
12 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416
1 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
2 STARDUST
3 HIGHLANDER V
4 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
5 RESIDENT EVIL 3
6 WEDDING DAZE
7 KUNG FU FIGHTER
8 ROGUE ASSASSIN
9 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
10 NO RESERVATIONS

SM CITY SAN LAZARO 786-2488
1 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
2 RESIDENT EVIL 3
3 HIGHLANDER V
4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
5 STARDUST
6 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

SM SOUTHMALL 806-6888
1 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
2 RESIDENT EVIL 3
3 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
4 HIGHLANDER V
5 MR. WOODCOCK
6 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
7 STARDUST
8 KUNG FU FIGHTER
9 RETRIBUTION

SM CITY BICUTAN 776-3055
1 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 KUNG FU FIGHTER
4 RESIDENT EVIL 3

SM CITY MANILA 523-9240
1 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
2 RESIDENT EVIL 3
3 HIGHLANDER V
4 STARDUST
5 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
6 RESERVED
7 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
8 RETRIBUTION
9 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
10 KUNG FU FIGHTER
11 ROGUE ASSASSIN
12 MR. WOODCOCK

SM CITY DASMARINAS (046)4323201-04
1 STARDUST
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 RESIDENT EVIL
4 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING

SM VALENZUELA 293-3917
1 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
2 STARDUST
3 RETRIBUTION
4 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

SM CITY SUCAT 829-4975
1 KUNG FU FIGHTER
2 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
3 RESIDENT EVIL 3
4 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

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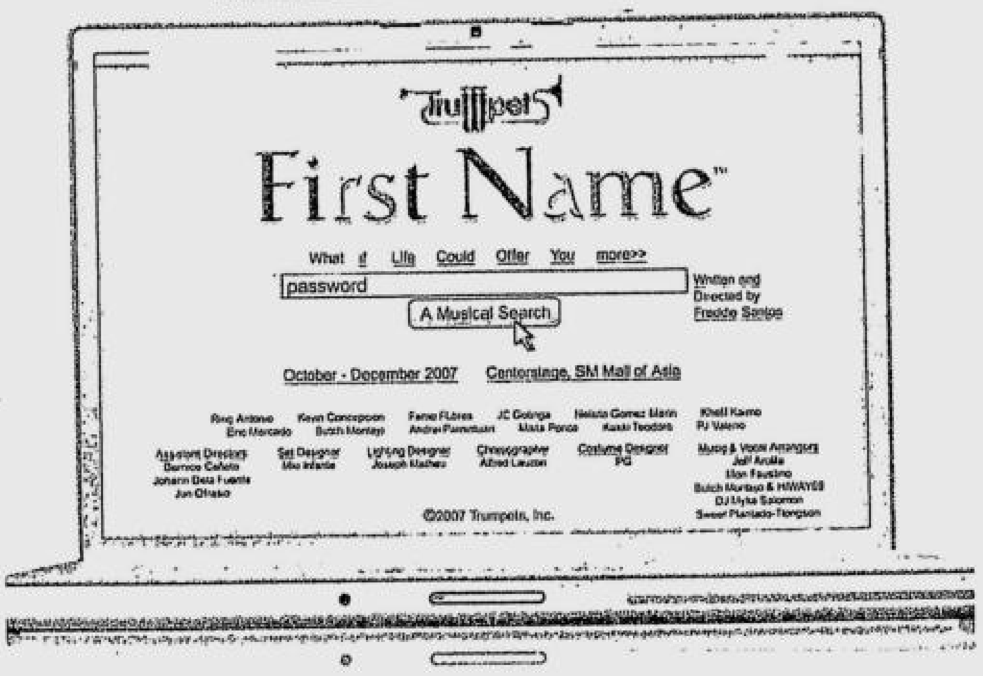

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2 STARDUST
3 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
4 RETRIBUTION
5 HIGHLANDER V
6 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
7 KUNG FU FIGHTER
8 RESIDENT EVIL 3

SM CITY CLARK (045)625-5844-45
1 RESIDENT EVIL 3
2 NO RESERVATIONS
3 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
5 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
6 DECEMBER BOYS

SM CITY MARILAO (044)9332013-17
1 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
4 WEDDING DAZE

SM CITY BATANGAS 885-6401-04
1 NO RESERVATIONS
2 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
3 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
4 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY

SM CITY PAMPANGA (045)9637681-85
1 RESIDENT EVIL
2 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
3 STARDUST
4 DECEMBER BOYS
5 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
6 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

SM CITY LIPA (043) 784-0187
1 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 WEDDING DAZE
4 ROGUE ASSASSIN/NO RESERVATIONS

SM CITY LUCENA (042)7108977-80
1 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
4 NO RESERVATIONS

SM CITY BAGUIO (074)6197838-39
1 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
2 HAIRSPRAY
3 STARDUST
4 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO (046)474-3100
1 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
2 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
3 RETRIBUTION
4 KUNG FU FIGHTER

SM CITY STA. ROSA (049)5349811
1 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
2 RESIDENT EVIL 3
3 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
4 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY DAVAO (082)2976998
1 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
2 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
3 RESIDENT EVIL 3
4 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
5 SKINWALKERS
6 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME

SM CITY CAGAYAN (088)859-2884
1 NO RESERVATIONS
2 BRATZ
3 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
4 SKINWALKERS

SM CITY ILOILO (033)3209422
1 NO RESERVATIONS
2 ROGUE ASSASSIN
3 WEDDING DAZE
4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
5 DAYWATCH
6 RESERVED
7 RESERVED
8 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

SM CITY CEBU (032)231-3876
1 STARDUST
2 SKINWALKERS
3 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
4 NO RESERVATIONS
5 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
6 NO RESERVATIONS
7 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
8 RESIDENT EVIL 3

SM CITY BACOLOD (034) 708 1010
1 RESIDENT EVIL 3
2 STARDUST
3 NO RESERVATIONS
4 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

*FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MOVIE LISTING, MTRCB RATING, SCREENING SCHEDULES AND THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE

MOVIEWORLD

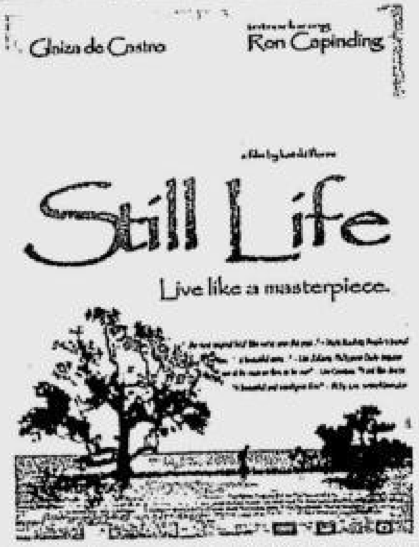
www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

GALLERIA
Ticket Price THX:P160 130 indie Sine:130 632-8116

1 STARDUST • THX
1:45 4:30 7:15 10:00
2 KNOCKED UP
11:00 1:45 4:30 7:15 10:00
3 THE SEEKER: Dark is Rising
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
4 HIGHLANDER
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00
5 Reserved for VICTORY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP 10:00AM
6 Reserved for VICTORY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP 10:00AM
7 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00
8 indieSine: TUKSO 1:00 2:45
STILL LIFE 4:30 6:45 9:00
9 RESIDENT EVIL 3
1:05 3:20 5:35 7:50 10:00
10 MR. WOODCOCK
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

NOW SHOWING



watch this only at Robinsons Movieworld Galleria
OCTOBER 17 to 23 MTRCB Rating: PG13

ERMITA
Ticket Price: P110 / P120

1 THE SEEKER: Dark is Rising
10:10 12:35 3:00 5:25 7:45 10:00
2 STARDUST
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00
3 KNOCKED UP
11:20 2:00 4:40 7:20 10:00
4 MR WOODCOCK
11:10 1:20 3:30 5:40 7:50 10:00
5 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT
11:10 1:20 3:30 5:40 7:50 10:00
6 HIGHLANDER
11:10 1:20 3:30 5:40 7:50 10:00
7 RESIDENT EVIL 3
10:10 12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

METRO EAST
Ticket Price:P100 / P110 682-8193 • 682-8199

1 KNOCKED UP
1:00 3:35 6:15 9:00
2 THE SEEKER: Dark is Rising
11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10
3 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
11:25 1:50 4:15 6:40 9:05
4 HIGHLANDER
11:25 1:50 4:15 6:40 9:05
5 MR. WOODCOCK
11:25 1:50 4:15 6:40 9:05
6 STARDUST
1:00 3:35 6:10 9:00
7 RESIDENT EVIL 3
11:40 2:00 4:30 6:40 9:00
8 KUNG FU FIGHTER
12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00

NOVALICHES
Ticket Price:P90 / P100 936-3231 / 935-3229-30

1 THE SEEKER: Dark is Rising
2 KNOCKED UP
3 STARDUST
4 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

PIONEER
Ticket Price:P100 / P110 687-5378

1 MR. WOODCOCK
1:30 3:50 6:10 8:30
2 HIGHLANDER
1:10 3:35 6:00 8:25
3 THE SEEKER: Dark is Rising
1:40 4:00 6:20 8:40
4 KNOCKED UP
12:25 3:10 5:55 8:40

STA. ROSA
Ticket Price: P80 / P90 (049) 837-0907

1 THE SEEKER: Dark is Rising
2 STARDUST
3 RESIDENT EVIL 3
4 KNOCKED UP
5 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT

LIPA
Ticket Price: P90 (043) 757-3664 (043) 312-5870

1 NO RESERVATIONS
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 WEDDING DAZE
4 THE HOST

DASMARIÑAS
Ticket Price: P80 / P90 (046) 416-4332

1 KUNG FU FIGHTER
2 KNOCKED UP
3 THE SEEKER: Dark is Rising
4 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

IMUS
Ticket Price: P100 (046) 875-3838 (046) 471-8188

1 KUNG FU FIGHTER
2 THE SEEKER: Dark is Rising
3 APAT APAT DAPAT APAT
4 KNOCKED UP

ANGELES
Ticket Price: P90 / P95 (045) 892-2348

1 RESIDENT EVIL 3
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 DECEMBER BOYS / THE SEEKER
4 KNOCKED UP

TARLAC

1 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
2 DON'T LOOK BACK
3 SHOOT 'EM UP

STARMILLS
Ticket Price:P80 / P90 (045) 875-1927

1 KNOCKED UP
2 STARDUST
3 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
4 THE SEEKER: Dark is Rising
5 DECEMBER BOYS
6 RESIDENT EVIL 3

BACOLOD
Ticket Price: P70 (034) 441-0459

1 RESIDENT EVIL 3
2 NO RESERVATIONS
3 STARDUST
4 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT
5 THE HOST
6 indieSine: TUKSO

ILOILO
Ticket Price: P70.50 / P80.50 (033) 336-8070

1 DAYWATCH
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 NO RESERVATIONS
4 THE HOST
5 WEDDING DAZE
6 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY

a film by Dennis Marasigan

CINEMALAYA 2007 Winner - Best Screenplay

The mysterious death of a young village lass leads to the investigation of those who knew her and what they may have to gain from her death. Told from the perspectives of the different characters, the film examines how one's view may lead to varying interpretations of the same incidents.

showing at Robinsons Movieworld OCTOBER 17 to 23

Comedy isn't dead in RP—but it may be in Mandalay

MANDALAY—AS ONE OF MYANMAR'S most beloved comedy acts, the "Moustache Brothers" have made a living by risking prison every night with their biting parodies of the ruling junta.

But their luck ran out when the military clamped down on anti-government protests that posed the biggest challenge to the regime in nearly two decades.

Security forces on Sept. 25 swept into the ramshackle home where they perform in Mandalay and arrested Par Par Lay—the most outspoken of the trio, also known as Moustache Brother Number One.

"They said nothing," his younger brother and fellow performer Lu Maw told AFP of the raid on their home.

"My brother is a jail bird," added Lu Maw, who likes to speak in well-worn English idioms.

The arrest wasn't entirely a surprise.

The group had been banned from performing for the last six years, but they persevered, catering mainly to tourists. Par Par Lay mocked the ban by parading under a "Most Wanted" sign during his show every night.

He has been imprisoned twice before—first for six months in 1990, and then again in 1996 when he and Moustache Brother Number Three, Lu Zaw, were locked up for nearly six years.

Their offence then was telling anti-government jokes at a rally held at Aung San Suu Kyi's house to mark independence day in January 1996. *AFP*

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING

SHANG CINEPLEX
1 (DOLBY) CINE EUROPA
2 THE SEEKER : DARK IS RISING
3 (DOLBY) KNOCKED UP
4 (DOLBY) STARDUST
PREMIERE
(DOLBY) MR. WOODCOCK

Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216
1 THE SEEKER : DARK IS RISING
2 HIGHLANDER -V
3 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
4 KNOCKED UP

starmall EDSA-SHAW
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266150
3 KNOCKED UP
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) STURDUST
5

metropolis star cinema
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8504266, 8433994
1 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
2 RESIDENT EVIL - 3
3 KUNG FU FIGHTER
4 KNOCKED UP

THEATRES
1 CHUCK & LARRY
2 LAST LEGION
3 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

PACIFIC MALL LUCENA CINEMAGIC
Pacific Mall Lucena Tel (042) 660-0271
1 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
2 ROGUE ASSASSIN
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 KNOCKED UP
2 RESIDENT EVIL - 3
3 MR. WOODCOCK
4 THE SEEKER : DARK IS RISING
5 HIGHLANDER -V
6 THE SEEKER : DARK IS RISING
7 STURDUST
8 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
9 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
10 KUNG FU FIGHTER

Blue Wave MARIKINA
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927
1 THE SEEKER : DARK IS RISING
2 (DOLBY) APAT DAPAT , DAPAT APAT
3 (DOLBY) HIGHLANDER
4 (DOLBY) RESERVED

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
tel 7334228
1 (DOLBY) RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 APAT DAPAT , DAPAT APAT
5 THE SEEKER : DARK IS RISING

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 ROGUE ASSASSIN
2 KUNG FU FIGHTER
3 AKO LANG SA LANGIT
4 RESERVED

Maragana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 MR. WOODCOCK
2 HIGHLANDER
3 KNOCKED UP

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)
1 DON'T LOOK BACK
2 THE SEEKER : DARK IS RISING

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 THE SEEKER : DARK IS RISING
2 APAT DAPAT , DAPAT APAT
3 RESIDENT EVIL - 3
4 KNOCKED UP

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 APAT DAPAT , DAPAT APAT
2 UNDERDOG

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72
1 (DOLBY) KNOCKED UP
2 THE SEEKER : DARK IS RISING
3 (DOLBY) STURDUST
4 (DOLBY) MR WOODCOCK

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 APAT DAPAT , DAPAT APAT
2 THE SEEKER : DARK IS RISING
3 (DOLBY) RESIDENT EVIL - 3
4

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel. (049) 4111146
1 RESERVED
2 (DOLBY) RESERVED
3 (DTS) RESERVED
4 RESERVED

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 I KNOW WHO KILL ME
2 APAT DAPAT , DAPAT APAT
3 (DOLBY) HOST

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 APAT DAPAT , DAPAT APAT
2 HOST
3 (DOLBY) CHUCK & LARRY
4 THE BRAVE ONE / NANCY DREW

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320
1 I KNOW WHO KILL ME
2 APAT DAPAT , DAPAT APAT
3 (DOLBY) HOST

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Gapan) tel. (044) 4867736
1 DAY WATCH
2 APAT DAPAT , DAPAT APAT

Lianas Cinema
(Pasig) tel 640.4748
1 ONE PERCENT FULL
2 AKO LANG SA LANGIT

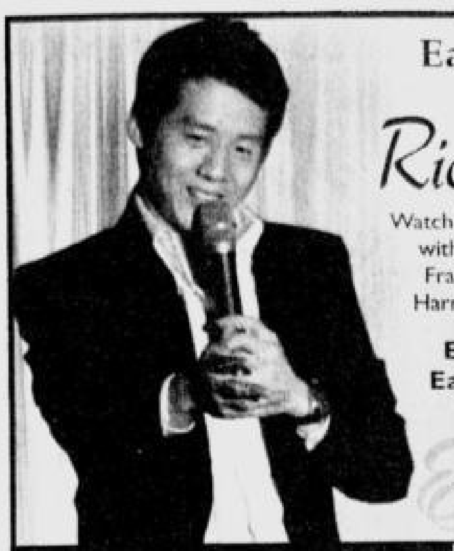
Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (DOLBY) KUNG FU FIGHTER
2 AKO LANG SA LANGIT
3 HIRAM
4 (DTS) CHUCK & LARRY

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) RESIDENT EVIL
2 AKO LANG SA LANGIT
3 THE SEEKER : THE DARK IS RISING
4 BATANG MAGDALENA
5 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 NO RESERVATION
2 WEDDING DAZE
3 HOST
4 KAPAG ANG PALAY MAY BUMAYO

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 AKO LANG SA LANGIT
2 ONE PERCENT FULL

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE



Eastwood City presents
Richard Poon
Watch him bring back the classics, with hits from Tony Bennett, Frank Sinatra, Rod Stewart, Harry Connick, Jr. and more...
Every Tuesday at 8PM
Eastwood Fuente Circle
FREE ADMISSION!
Eastwood City
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EASTWOOD CINEMAS
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX
Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City
E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. (C-5) Quezon City
To receive Eastwood City Events, Promos and Cinema schedule just text eastwood and send to 2948 for Globe, Smart & Sun Cellular subscribers
For inquiries, call:
687-6963
GUARANTEED SEATS
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

1	KNOCKED UP	2:45, 5:35, 8:25, 11:10	R-18
2	THE SEEKER	3:35, 6:05, 8:35, 11:00	GP
3	STARDUST	2:15, 5:05, 7:55, 10:40	G
4	MR. WOODCOCK	3:15, 5:40, 8:05,10:40	PG-13

Araneta Center
aranetacenter.net
Gateway MALL FarmersPlaza
gatewaymall.com.ph
Gateway CINEPLEX 10
gatewaycineplex10.com
ONLY CINEPLEX IN THE COUNTRY
EXPERIENCE THE DIFFERENCE

KNOCKED UP	12:50 / 3:40 / 6:30 / 9:20
THE SEEKER: DARK IS RISING	12:15 / 2:35 / 4:55 / 7:15 / 9:50
MR WOODCOCK	12:30 / 2:45 / 5:00 / 7:15 / 9:30
HIGHLANDER : THE SOURCE	1:45 / 4:20 / 6:55 / 9:30
APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT	12:10 / 2:30 / 4:50 / 7:10 / 9:30
RESIDENT EVIL : EXTINCTION	12:50 / 3:10 / 5:30 / 7:50 / 9:50
STARDUST	12:35 / 3:30 / 6:25 / 9:20
THE SEEKER: DARK IS RISING	2:00 / 4:20 / 6:40 / 9:00

The PLATINUM CINEMA
DOLBY DIGITAL-EX

MALL CINEMAS
DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

HIGHLANDER : THE SOURCE	1:05 / 3:45 / 6:15 / 8:50
THE SEEKER: DARK IS RISING	12:10 RS / 1:00 / 3:30 / 5:50 / 8:10

ARANETA COLISEUM
www.aranetacoliseum.com

PBA GAMES
October 24, Wednesday
4:35 Welcoat vs Red Bull 7:20 Talk N Text vs Ginebra

WORLD POOL CHAMPIONSHIP
Nov. 3 to 11, 2007

For ticket inquiries, please call TicketNet at 911-5555 or log on to www.ticketnet.com.ph.

SHANG CINEPLEX

1 CINE EUROPA
2 THE SEEKER MTRCB GP 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00
3 KNOCKED UP MTRCB R-18 1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 10:00
4 MR. WOODCOCK MTRCB PG-13 2:15, 4:35, 6:55, 9:15
PREMIERE THEATRE STAR DUST MTRCB GP
Movies and schedules are subject to change without prior notice

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Shang Cineplex E-see Club
Enjoy exciting privileges, rewards and discounts.
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Log-on to www.shangcineplex.com
or call 633-4735 for details

6th floor, Shangri-La Plaza Mall
EDSA corner Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City
Call 633-2227 or 633-4735
for more details.
Shangri-La Plaza

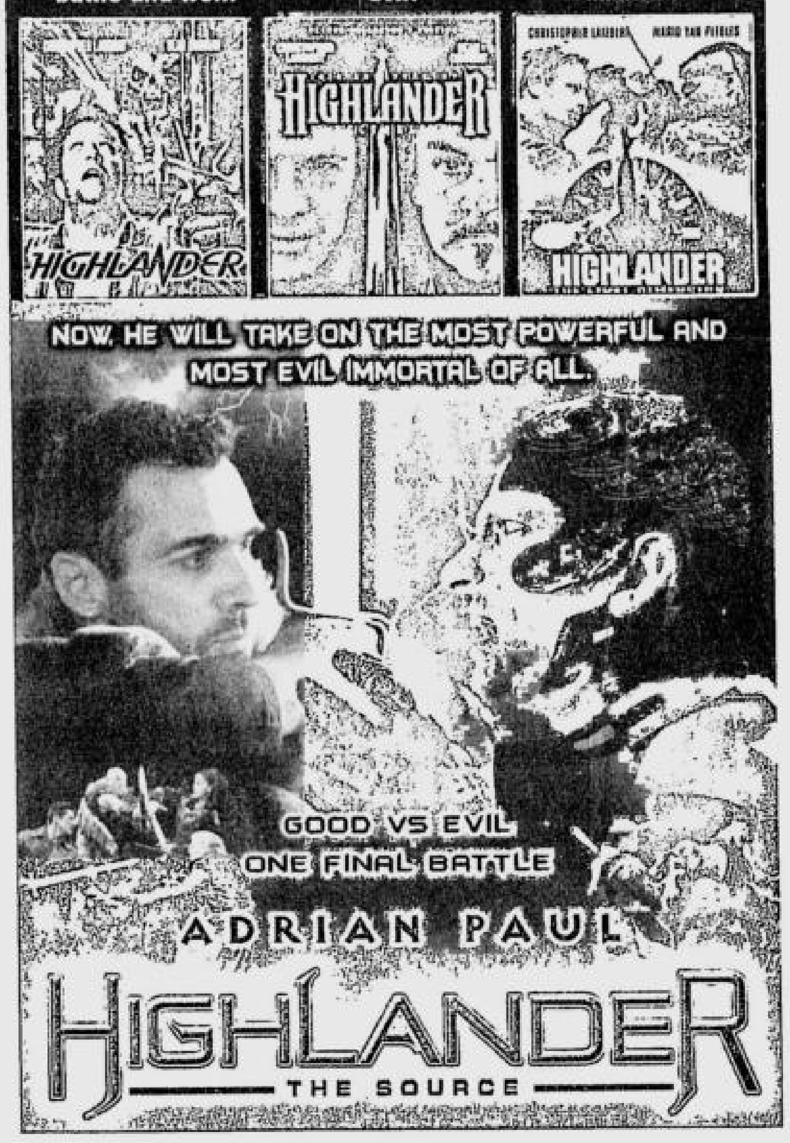
OPENS TOMORROW
WHAT HAPPENED TO THEM...
COULD HAPPEN TO YOU!

SOMEONE YOU LOVE JUST DISAPPEARED.
NOBODY IS TELLING THE TRUTH.

JAKE GYLLENHAAL REESE WITHERSPOON
RENDITION

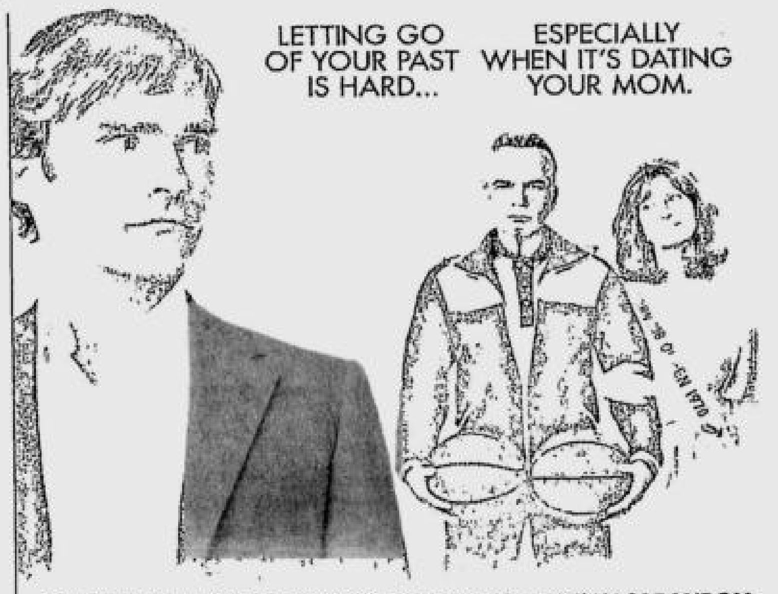
MTRCB RATING ▶ R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND UP
2ND WEEK

CHAPTER 1: From the Highlands of Scotland to the streets of New York, he fought his first battle and won.
CHAPTER 2: With the help of his powerful mentor, he saved the world from evil.
CHAPTER 3: He is faced with an enemy from the past whose sole purpose is to eliminate him and become the only Immortal.


HIGHLANDER
HIGHLANDER
HIGHLANDER
NOW, HE WILL TAKE ON THE MOST POWERFUL AND MOST EVIL IMMORTAL OF ALL.
GOOD VS EVIL
ONE FINAL BATTLE

ADRIAN PAUL
HIGHLANDER
THE SOURCE

MTRCB PG-13
2ND WEEK
The FUNNIEST MOVIE of the YEAR!
LAUGH 'TILL YOU DROP!
From the Producers of
"THE WEDDING CRASHERS"


LETTING GO OF YOUR PAST IS HARD...
ESPECIALLY WHEN IT'S DATING YOUR MOM.

SEANN WILLIAM SCOTT BILLY BOB THORNTON AND SUSAN SARANDON
MR. WOODCOCK